

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**Marta Abrantes
v.
Philadelphia Gas Works**

**Public Meeting: March 15, 2018
2613845-ALJ
Docket No. F-2017-2613845**

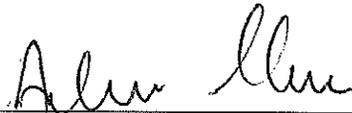
STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN ANDREW G. PLACE

Before the Commission today is the Initial Decision (I.D.) dismissing the Complaint of Marta Abrantes against Philadelphia Gas Works because she failed to appear at the scheduled hearing on October 6, 2017. The Complaint was assigned to the Administrative Law Judge's Office for hearing and the Administrative Law Judge issued a Prehearing Order directing the parties to comply with various procedural requirements and directed that a request to change the scheduled hearing should be sent at least five days prior to the hearing date, be in writing and state the agreement or opposition of the other party. I.D. at 2.

Ms. Abrantes informed the ALJ's office at 10:44 p.m. the evening before the hearing that she could not attend the hearing because her work schedule conflicted with the hearing time. I.D. at 5. Ms. Abrantes did not follow the procedures set forth in the ALJ's Prehearing Order but she did notify the ALJ's office that she had to work during the time of the scheduled hearing. I support the action taken here today as Ms. Abrantes' changed circumstance should be respected and considered and is a common occurrence for consumers who file complaints before the Commission. Frequently, individuals do not know their work schedules five days ahead of a scheduled hearing or are requested or required to work even though they originally requested time off.

In support of Chairman Brown's motion, I believe that the Complaint filed by Ms. Abrantes should be dismissed without prejudice in order that she be provided an opportunity to address any unresolved issues with her utility service provided by PGW.

Date: March 15, 2018



Andrew G. Place, Vice Chairman