

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

**Petition of Office of Consumer Advocate for
Reconsideration/Clarification of the
of November 5, 2019 Final CAP Policy Statement
and Order at Docket No. M-2019-3012599**

**Public Meeting held February 6, 2020
3016885 - LAW
Docket No. P-2020-3016885**

**2019 Amendments to the Policy Statement on
Customer Assistance Program, at 52 Pa. Code
§ 69.261-69.267**

M-2019-3012599

STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID W. SWEET

Before the Commission for consideration and disposition on the merits is a Petition for Reconsideration and/or Clarification filed by the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA).

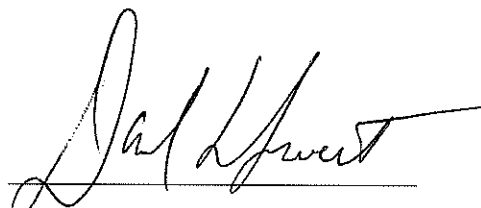
While I find that OCA has not met the standards for reconsideration,¹ I do believe that the arguments raised in OCA's petition, particularly regarding the impact of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grants on customer assistance programs (CAP), have some merit.

This topic has been extensively analyzed in both *Energy Affordability*² and *Review of Universal Service*³ proceedings. I reviewed the comments filed then, in addition to exploring this matter generally, and have concluded that this issue is much broader and should require increased involvement with the Department of Human Services (DHS). In fact, I have publicly commented on this very subject, even so far as asking parties to provide perspective on ways enrollment and coordination could be improved upon given the complimentary benefits offered by both CAP and LIHEAP.⁴

For years, the Commission has formally and informally engaged with DHS through participation in the LIHEAP Advisory Committee, as well as filing comments to the annual LIHEAP State Plan. It is ever more compelling that DHS evaluate its LIHEAP policies and actively coordinate its efforts in order to truly maximize energy assistance dollars across the Commonwealth.

I look forward to continuing this discussion with all interested parties in the future.

2/6/2020
DATE



David W. Sweet
Vice Chairman

¹ 66 Pa. C.S. § 703(g), 52 Pa. Code § 5.572, and *Duick v. PGW*, 56 Pa. P.U.C. 553 (1982)

² M-2017-2587711

³ M-2017-2596907

⁴ M-2017-2587711, *Energy Affordability for Low-Income Customers*, Statement of Vice Chairman David W. Sweet, December 17, 2019