

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

**RATIFICATION OF EMERGENCY
ORDER ESTABLISHING
TERMINATION MORATORIUM**

**Public Meeting September 17, 2020
3019244-LAW
Docket No. M-2020-3019244**

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN GLADYS BROWN DUTRIEUILLE

On March 6, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency (Proclamation) that identified the COVID-19 pandemic as a disaster emergency affecting the entire Commonwealth. On March 13, 2020, relying on both this Proclamation and the Commission's authority under the provisions of Section 1501 of the Public Utility Code, the Commission issued an Emergency Order (March 13 Emergency Order) establishing a prohibition on the termination of public utility service and directing the reconnection of service to customers previously terminated, to the extent it could be done safely, for the duration of the Proclamation, or until a time otherwise established by the Commission.

On August 5, 2020, the Tenant Union Representative Network (TURN), Action Alliance of Senior Citizens of Greater Philadelphia (Action Alliance), and the Coalition for Affordable Utility Service and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA) (collectively, the Joint Petitioners) filed a Petition, under 52 Pa. Code § 5.41, seeking due process relief before any Commission action to lift the termination moratorium. By Letter issued on August 10, 2020, I requested comments from interested persons and organizations regarding the moratorium and customer protections for vulnerable customers should the absolute service termination moratorium be lifted.

I do not agree with the due process arguments posed by the Joint Petitioners. However, I do acknowledge their request to allow stakeholder input on the issue of the utility service termination moratorium. My August 10th Letter and the responsive comments filed thereto have satisfied the Joint Petitioners' request that stakeholders be heard. I wish to thank the numerous people, organizations, and utilities that filed responsive comments to the Letter because I believe that the Commission is better-informed as a result of those comments. Interested persons have been given an opportunity to be heard by the Commission; therefore, I believe that the Petition should be denied. That being said, I do not agree that the Petition is necessarily moot because future stakeholder input may or may not be required. Whether a further stakeholder process is necessary and if so, how it would be structured, are determinations for the Commission to make.



DATE: September 17, 2020

**Gladys Brown Dutrieuille
CHAIRMAN**