



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

June 29, 2022

E-FILED

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Valley Energy, Inc. / Docket No.
R-2022-3032300**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing please find the Prehearing Memorandum, on behalf of the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”), in the above-captioned proceeding.

Copies will be served on all known parties in this proceeding, as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sharon E. Webb

Sharon E. Webb
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Attorney ID No. 73995

Enclosures

cc: Parties of Record
Robert D. Knecht
Mark Ewen
Hendrick Isom

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION	:	
	:	
v.	:	DOCKET NO. R-2022-3032300
	:	
VALLEY ENERGY, INC.	:	

**OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE
PREHEARING MEMORANDUM**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”) is authorized to represent the interests of small business consumers of utility services before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (the “Commission”) pursuant to the provisions of the Small Business Advocate Act, Act 181 of 1988, 73 P.S. §§399.41 – 399.50 (“the Act”). In order to discharge this statutory duty, the Small Business Advocate deems it necessary to participate as a party to these proceedings. Please address all correspondence as follows:

Sharon E. Webb
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Office of Small Business Advocate
555 Walnut Street
Forum Place, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 783-2525
(717) 783-2831 (fax)
swebb@pa.gov

II. BACKGROUND

On April 29, 2022, Valley Energy, Inc. (“Valley” or the “Company”), filed Supplement No. 59 to Tariff Gas-PA P.U.C. No. 2. The proposed Supplement No. 59, if approved, would have resulted in an increase in the annual distribution revenues of Valley by \$991,632 per year, an 18.2% increase.

Subsequently the OSBA filed a Complaint, Public Statement and Notice of Appearance on May 12, 2022.

III. WITNESS

Assisting in the development and presentation of OSBA’s position in this rate case will be:

Mr. Robert D. Knecht
Industrial Economics Incorporated
5 Plymouth Road
Lexington, MA 02421
(781) 249 9461
rdk@indecon.com

Mr. Mark D. Ewen
Industrial Economics, Incorporated
2067 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
(617) 354 0074
mewen@indecon.com

The OSBA requests that all parties serve copies of all documents, including discovery, testimony and briefs, upon OSBA's witnesses, simultaneously with service upon the OSBA.

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

The OSBA is participating in these three cases to ensure that the interests of small business customers of Valley are adequately represented and protected. As appropriate and necessary, the OSBA will investigate and analyze the claims and proposals of the parties, primarily through discovery, cross-examination of witnesses appearing for those parties, submission of testimony and briefing of the issues that arise in this proceeding. The OSBA will particularly focus on issues where the impact upon the interests of Valley's small business customers would be unjustifiably different from or disproportionate to the impact on other classes of customers, or otherwise lacking in reasonableness or basic fairness. In that regard, the OSBA will thoroughly review all revenue allocation and rate design proposals to assure that they are fair to small business ratepayers. The OSBA will also examine the propriety of the Company's proposed modifications to Rule 4 regarding its facilities expansion policies.

The OSBA reserves the right to pursue additional issues as they may arise throughout the course of the proceedings.

V. DISCOVERY

The OSBA is evaluating discovery responses and will issue discovery as needed.

VI. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS

In accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 1.54(b)(3)(i), the OSBA agrees to accept electronic mail delivery of documents on the due date¹ as satisfying the in-hand requirement. At the time of this writing, hard copy delivery of documents to the OSBA is not possible. The OSBA requests that email delivery of documents also be provided to its witnesses identified above.

In addition to email copies of pleadings, briefs, and exceptions, the OSBA requests email copies of responses to discovery propounded by the OSBA or any other party.

VII. SETTLEMENT

The OSBA is willing to enter into settlement discussions at any phase of these proceedings.

¹ In accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 1.56(a)(5), documents must be received by 4:30 pm.

VIII. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

The OSBA will cooperate with the other parties to develop a mutually acceptable schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sharon E. Webb

Sharon E. Webb
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Attorney ID No. 73995

For: Office of Small Business Advocate

Office of Small Business Advocate
Forum Place
555 Walnut Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dated: June 29, 2022

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY
COMMISSION**

v.

VALLEY ENERGY, INC.

:
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:
: **DOCKET NO. R-2022-3032300**
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:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served via email (*unless other noted below*) upon the following persons, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

Administrative Law Judge
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Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
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DATE: June 29, 2022

/s/ Sharon E. Webb

Sharon E. Webb
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Attorney ID No. 73995