



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING  
400 NORTH STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17120

BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION  
&  
ENFORCEMENT

September 29, 2022

**Via Electronic Filing**

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

Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement v.  
Larry Bittinger  
Docket No. C-2022-  
**I&E Formal Complaint**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for electronic filing please find the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement's (I&E) **Formal Complaint** for the above-captioned proceeding.

Copies are being served on all parties of record as evidenced in the attached Certificate of Service. Should you have any questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alphonso Arnold III'.

Alphonso Arnold III  
Prosecutor  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
PA Attorney ID No. 318487  
(717) 787-3836  
[alphonarno@pa.gov](mailto:alphonarno@pa.gov)

AA/ac  
Enclosures

cc: Per Certificate of Service

## NOTICE

A. **You must file an Answer within 20 days of the date of service of this Complaint.** The date of service is the mailing date as indicated at the top of the Secretarial Letter. *See* 52 Pa. Code §1.56(a). The Answer must raise all factual and legal arguments that you wish to claim in your defense, include the docket number of this Complaint, and be verified. You may file your Answer by mailing an original to:

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

Or, you may eFile your Answer using the Commission's website at [www.puc.pa.gov](http://www.puc.pa.gov). The link to eFiling is located under the Filing & Resources tab on the homepage. If your Answer is 250 pages or less, you are not required to file a paper copy. If your Answer exceeds 250 pages, you must file a paper copy with the Secretary's Bureau.

Additionally, a copy should either be mailed to:

Alphonso Arnold III, Prosecutor  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Or, emailed to Mr. Arnold at: [alphonarno@pa.gov](mailto:alphonarno@pa.gov)

B. If you fail to answer this Complaint within 20 days, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement will request that the Commission issue an Order imposing the requested relief.

C. You may elect not to contest this Complaint by paying the past due assessment and civil penalty within 20 days. Send only a certified check or money order made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," with the docket number indicated, and mail to:

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

D. If you file an Answer which either admits or fails to deny the allegations of the Complaint, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement will request the Commission to issue an Order imposing the requested relief set forth in this Complaint.

E. If you file an Answer which contests the Complaint, the matter will be assigned to an Administrative Law Judge for hearing and decision. The Judge is not bound by the penalty set forth in the Complaint and may impose additional and/or alternative penalties as appropriate.

F. If you are a corporation, you must be represented by legal counsel. 52 Pa. Code § 1.21.

G. Alternative formats of this material are available for persons with disabilities by contacting the Commission's ADA Coordinator at (717) 787-8714.

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2022-
	:	
Larry Bittinger	:	

---

**FORMAL COMPLAINT**

---

NOW COMES the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (“I&E”) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”), by its prosecuting attorney, and files this Complaint against Larry Bittinger (“Respondent”), pursuant to Section 701 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 701. In support of its Complaint, I&E respectfully represents the following:

**Parties and Jurisdiction**

1. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, with a mailing address of 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, is a duly constituted agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania empowered to regulate public utilities within the Commonwealth pursuant to the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. §§ 101, *et seq.*

2. Complainant is the Commission’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement and is the entity established by statute to prosecute complaints against public utilities pursuant to 66 Pa.C.S. § 308.2(a)(11). *See also Implementation of Act 129 of 2008; Organization of Bureaus and Offices*, Docket No. M-2008-2071852 (Order entered August 11, 2011) at 5 (transferring authority to prosecute assessment cases to I&E).

3. Complainant is represented by:

Alphonso Arnold III  
Prosecutor  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 787-3836  
[alphonarno@pa.gov](mailto:alphonarno@pa.gov)

4. Respondent is Larry Bittinger and maintains its principal place of business at 8177 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530.

5. Respondent is a “public utility” as that term is defined at 66 Pa.C.S. § 102, as it is engaged in transporting property in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for compensation.

6. The Commission issued Respondent a Certificate of Public Convenience on or about April 4, 2017, at A-2017-2584721, for truck authority.

7. Section 501(a) of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 501(a), authorizes and obligates the Commission to execute and enforce the provisions of the Public Utility Code.

8. Section 701 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 701, authorizes the Commission to, *inter alia*, hear and determine complaints against public utilities for a violation of any law or regulation that the Commission has jurisdiction to administer.

9. Section 3301 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 3301, authorizes the Commission to impose civil penalties on any public utility, or any other person or corporation subject to the Commission’s authority, for violation(s) of the Public Utility Code and/or Commission regulations. Section 3301(a)-(b) of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 3301(a)-(b), allows for the imposition of a separate civil penalty for each violation and each day’s continuance of such violation(s).

10. Respondent, in transporting property as a common carrier for compensation, is subject to the power and authority of this Commission pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 501(c), which requires a public utility to comply with Commission regulations.

11. Pursuant to the provisions of the applicable Commonwealth statutes and regulations, the Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this complaint and the actions of Respondent related thereto.

### **Factual Background**

#### **2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR**

12. On or about September 10, 2021, the Commission mailed to Respondent, by first class mail, an assessment invoice for the July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 Fiscal Year (“2021-2022 Fiscal Year”) that was based, in part, on Respondent’s reported revenues for the 2020 calendar year. Respondent’s assessment was \$129. A copy of the assessment invoice is attached as I&E Exhibit 1.

13. Accompanying the assessment invoice was a notice of assessment that informed Respondent that it was obligated to pay the amount listed on the assessment invoice within thirty (30) days or file objections within fifteen (15) days. A copy of the notice of assessment is attached as I&E Exhibit 2.

14. While there is no record that the assessment invoice and notice of assessment were returned in the mail to the Commission as being undeliverable, on or about October 27, 2021, the Commission re-mailed to Respondent, by certified mail, the assessment invoice and notice of assessment since Respondent did not pay the amount listed on the assessment invoice within thirty (30) days or file objections within fifteen (15) days.

15. On October 29, 2021, Respondent received the assessment invoice and notice of assessment for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. A true and correct copy of proof of delivery of the assessment invoice and notice of assessment is attached as I&E Exhibit 3.

16. The Commission received no objections from Respondent to the assessment amount set forth in the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Assessment Invoice.

17. On or about December 15, 2021, the Commission's Bureau of Administration sent Respondent a letter warning Respondent that if it did not pay its 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Assessment within 20 days of receipt of the letter, then the Commission would institute appropriate legal action against Respondent.

18. Respondent failed to pay its 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Assessment Invoice of \$129.

### **Violation**

19. That Respondent failed to satisfy its 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Assessment in that it did not pay the amount due within thirty (30) days of receipt of the invoice. If proven, this is a violation of Section 510(c) of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 510(c). The Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement's proposed civil penalty for this violation is \$50.<sup>1</sup> This civil penalty, consistent with past Commission decisions,<sup>2</sup> is based on the following factors: (1) the type of violation involved; (2) the amount of Respondent's outstanding assessment balance related to the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year; and (3) Respondent's compliance history with the Public Utility Code and Commission's regulations for three (3) years prior to the filing of this Complaint.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> I&E anticipates that this level of penalty will provide a sufficient deterrent against future violations by Respondent.

<sup>2</sup> See *Pa. Pub. Util. Comm'n v. Moore Family Holdings, LLC*, Docket No. C-2021-3029489 (Order entered April 14, 2022); *Pa. Pub. Util. Comm'n v. Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Paratransit Inc.*, Docket No. C-2021-3029522 (Order entered April 14, 2022); *Pa. Pub. Util. Comm'n v. JB Jr. Trucking LLC*, Docket No. C-2021-3029458 (Order entered February 24, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> A review of the Commission's records for a period of three (3) years prior to the date of the filing of this Complaint demonstrates that Respondent has an acceptable compliance history with the Commission.

**WHEREFORE**, for all the foregoing reasons, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement respectfully requests that:

- (a) Respondent be ordered to pay a total of \$179, which consists of its outstanding assessment balance of \$129 and a total civil penalty of \$50 for the above-described violation. Said payment should be made by certified check or money order, made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" with the docket number of this proceeding listed on the check, and mailed to the Secretary's Bureau of the Commission;
- (b) If payment of the assessment and civil penalty is not made, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement requests that:
  - (1) the Commission issue an Order to cancel the Certificate of Public Convenience issued to Respondent;
  - (2) this matter be referred to the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General for appropriate action; and
  - (3) the Commission certify automobile registrations to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for suspension or revocation.

Respectfully submitted,



Alphonso Arnold III  
Prosecutor  
PA Attorney ID No. 318487

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 787-3836  
[alphonarno@pa.gov](mailto:alphonarno@pa.gov)

Date: September 29, 2022

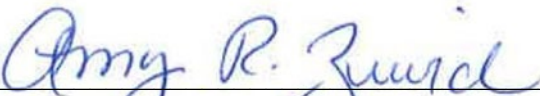
**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2022-
	:	
Larry Bittinger	:	

**VERIFICATION**

I, Amy Zuvich, Chief of Finance and Assessments, Bureau of Administration, Finance and Assessment Section, hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief and that I expect the Bureau will be able to prove the same at any hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: September 29, 2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Zuvich, Chief of Finance and Assessments  
Finance and Assessment Section  
Bureau of Administration  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**I&E**  
**Exhibit 1**



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission**

Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**GENERAL ASSESSMENTS INVOICE**

LARRY BITTINGER  
8177 GLADES PIKE  
BERLIN PA 15530

Invoice Date	Invoice Number
9/10/2021	21-8919008
Fiscal Year	
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022	

- Read carefully Notice of Assessment
- Use return envelope provided
- Make check payable to:  
**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**
- If you desire confirmation of receipt, use a mailing service that provides one, such as USPS-Return Receipt, or overnight delivery with receipt confirmation

PUC Assessment	\$129.00
<b>PAY THIS AMOUNT WITHIN 30 DAYS</b>	<b>\$129.00</b>

TO RECEIVE PROPER CREDIT FOR YOUR PAYMENT,  
REMOVE THE BOTTOM PART OF THIS INVOICE AT  
THE PERFORATION AND RETURN WITH YOUR  
REMITTANCE

**MAIL PAYMENT TO:**  
PA DOR  
PO BOX 61380  
HARRISBURG, PA 17106-1380

FOLD AND CUT HERE

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR REMITTANCE

LARRY BITTINGER  
8177 GLADES PIKE  
BERLIN PA 15530

Invoice Date	Invoice Number
9/10/2021	21-8919008
Fiscal Year	
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022	

<b>PAY THIS AMOUNT WITHIN 30 DAYS</b>	<b>\$129.00</b>
---------------------------------------	-----------------

21000891900821 091021100000129002000000000030000000000 000000129006

**I&E**  
**Exhibit 2**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265**

**NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT**

**EXPLANATION OF BILL FOR GENERAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022**

In Section 510 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §510, the Pennsylvania General Assembly has authorized the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to assess all public utilities a percentage of their gross intrastate operating revenues for the preceding calendar year. Under Section 510, each public utility is required, on or before March 31 of each year to file with the Commission a statement of the utility's gross intrastate operating revenues for the preceding calendar year. After receiving the utilities' statements of gross intrastate operating revenues, the Commission sends general assessment invoices to all public utilities to advise each utility of the amount of assessment that utility owes based upon that utility's activity (gross intrastate operating revenues) in the preceding year. The enclosed assessment is for your proportionate share of the estimated expenses of the Public Utility Commission for the Commission's Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

**YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PAY THIS BILL WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE IT.** Objections to the assessment must be made in writing within 15 days and shall set out in detail the grounds upon which you regard the assessment to be excessive, erroneous, unlawful, or invalid. Objections may be filed only by the person, partnership, or corporation assessed. Filing an objection, however, does not eliminate your obligation to pay the assessment while your objection is being considered. **FAILURE TO PAY THE ASSESSMENT WHEN PAYMENT IS DUE WILL SUBJECT YOU TO PENALTIES.**

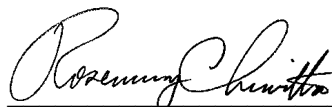
Be sure that your personal check or money order is written out in the same amount as your assessment invoice, and make your remittance payable to, "Commonwealth of PA". **DO NOT SEND CASH.** If you have reason to correspond with the Commission regarding your assessment invoice, please refer to your invoice number. A receipt for payment will not be issued. Please mail your payment with the return portion of your invoice in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Please note that rounding of your assessment to the nearest dollar has occurred. Your assessment for the PUC, including the OCA, OSBA and the DPC where applicable, has been combined into one invoice; one payment for all applicable assessments is acceptable. **A TWENTY DOLLAR (\$20.00) FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR ALL DISHONORED OR BAD CHECKS REMITTED AS PAYMENT OF ASSESSMENTS.**

Your assessment has been computed by multiplying your gross intrastate operating revenues for the calendar year 2020 by the assessment factor for the public utility group of which you are a member. Your gross intrastate operating revenues for 2020 have been taken from the Assessment Reports Form GAO-20, AR-20-RR or AR-20-MC which you have filed with the Commission, or have been estimated by the Commission if you failed to file a timely report. Gross operating revenue reported to the Commission on the Assessment Reports may have been revised by the Commission to accurately reflect assessable revenue. The assessment factors for the various public utility groups are set forth in Schedule B enclosed herewith.

The approved estimate of expenditures of the Commission for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 payable as a General Assessment by the public utilities which the Commission regulates has been determined as follows:

Approved budget for the Commission for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022:	\$76,418,074
Deduct:	
Pipeline Operators per Act 127 of 2011	531,547
Various Fees Collected in FY 2020-21	232,829
UGWF Administration per Act 13 of 2012	528,950
Prior Year cost saving	8,674,989
UCR Collection for CY 2020	4,945,527
EGS/NGS fees per Act 155 of 2014	<u>3,784,070</u>
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<b><u>\$18,697,912</u></b>
<b>General Assessment Total Amount</b>	<b>\$57,720,162</b>

The way in which the total Public Utility Commission assessment of \$57,720,162 has been allocated to the various groups of public utilities as shown on Schedules A and B enclosed herewith.




---

Rosemary Chiavetta  
Secretary  
PA Public Utility Commission

**MAKE INQUIRIES TO:**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Administrative Services/Assess  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**FOR CERTIFIED AND EXPRESS CARRIERS**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Administrative Services/Assess  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Assessment Section - Telephone 717-265-7548 or e-mail [pucassessments@pa.gov](mailto:pucassessments@pa.gov)

Allocation of Expenses based on percent of prior year Public Utility Group workload  
Budget Fiscal Year 2021-22

**SCHEDULE A**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Total Expenditures per Utility Group Calendar Year 2020</b>	<b>Percentage Distribution</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditures Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 by Utility Group</b>
Electric	\$25,794,157	45.0557%	\$26,006,223
Gas	\$12,138,076	21.2020%	\$12,237,829
Pipeline	\$356,757	0.6232%	\$359,712
Steam Heat	\$380,744	0.6651%	\$383,897
Tele./Tele.	\$5,695,370	9.9483%	\$5,742,175
Water/Sewer	\$7,191,030	12.5608%	\$7,250,114
Transportation - Passenger	\$1,913,566	3.3425%	\$1,929,296
Transportation - Property	\$1,172,663	2.0483%	\$1,182,282
Transportation - Rail	\$2,607,212	4.5541%	\$2,628,634
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$57,249,575</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$57,720,162</b>

**SCHEDULE B**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditures Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 by Utility Group</b>	<b>Gross intrastate revenues by utility group Calendar Year 2020</b>	<b>General Assessment Factor by Utility Group (Col. (a) / by Col. (b))</b>
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Electric	\$26,006,223	\$7,835,422,705	0.003319058075
Gas	\$12,237,829	\$3,347,192,213	0.003656147667
Pipeline	\$359,712	\$19,932,836	0.018046202758
Steam Heat	\$383,897	\$96,724,209	0.003968985676
Tele./Tele.	\$5,742,175	\$1,784,569,332	0.003217681094
Water/Sewer	\$7,250,114	\$1,532,122,563	0.004732071817
Transportation - Passenger	\$1,929,296	\$445,015,811	0.004335342593
Transportation - Property	\$1,182,282	\$773,316,668	0.001528845878
Transportation - Rail	\$2,628,634	\$121,941,805	0.021556462937
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$57,720,162</b>	<b>\$15,956,238,142</b>	<b>0.003617404145</b>

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE  
FEDERAL SHORTFALL RELATED TO GAS SAFETY APPLICABLE TO GAS PUBLIC UTILITIES  
ONLY**

	<b>Estimated Commission Federal Shortfall for Calendar Year 2020 and 6 Months of Calendar Year 2021</b>	<b>Actual Commission Federal Shortfall for Calendar Year 2020 and 6 Months of Calendar Year 2021</b>	<b>Estimated Commission Federal Shortfall for Calendar Year 2021 and 6 Months of Calendar Year 2022</b>
Gas	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Net Estimated Commission Federal Shortfall for Fiscal Year 2021-22 Assessment</b>	<b>Reported Revenue for Gas Utility Group for Calendar Year 2020</b>	<b>Supplemental add- on Factor</b>
Gas	\$0	\$3,347,192,213	0.000000000000

**I&E**  
**Exhibit 3**

# My Online Services

[Profile](#) [Print](#) [Guide](#) [Export](#)

[Systems](#)

[Reports](#)

[E-Services](#)

[Supplies](#)

[Home](#) > [E-Services](#) > Status History

## Status History ?

**Tracking Number Information**

<b>Meter:</b>	12604116	<b>Mailing Date:</b>	10/27/21 11:55 AM
<b>Tracking Number:</b>	9171969009350272384546	<b>Sender:</b>	
<b>Current Status:</b>	OK : Delivered	<b>Recipient:</b>	
<b>Class of Mail</b>	FC	<b>Zip Code:</b>	15530
<b>Service:</b>	ERR	<b>City:</b>	BERLIN
<b>Value</b>	\$0.530	<b>State:</b>	PA

[Proof of delivery](#)

---

**8177 GLADES PIKE APT 1  
BERLIN, PA 15530**

*1 SP C-17 R 21  
B-I-T-I-N-E-W*

**Status Details**

▼ Status Date	Status
Fri, 10/29/21, 12:52:00 PM	OK : Delivered
Fri, 10/29/21, 08:05:00 AM	Out for Delivery
Fri, 10/29/21, 07:54:00 AM	Arrival at Unit
Fri, 10/29/21, 05:32:00 AM	Dispatched from Sort Facility
Thu, 10/28/21, 02:34:00 PM	Processed (processing scan)
Thu, 10/28/21, 08:57:00 AM	Processed (processing scan)
Wed, 10/27/21, 08:39:00 PM	Processed (processing scan)
Wed, 10/27/21, 07:24:00 PM	Origin Acceptance
Wed, 10/27/21, 02:48:00 PM	OK: USPS acknowledges reception of info

Note: Delivery status updates are processed throughout the day and posted upon receipt from the Postal Service.

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

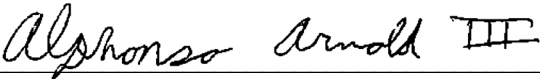
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2022-
	:	
Larry Bittinger	:	

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I am serving the foregoing **Formal Complaint** in the manner and upon the persons listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by party):

**Served via Certified Mail**

Larry Bittinger  
8177 Glades Pike  
Berlin, PA 15530

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alphonso Arnold III  
Prosecutor  
PA Attorney ID No. 318487

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 787-3836  
[alphonarno@pa.gov](mailto:alphonarno@pa.gov)

Dated: September 29, 2022