



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

IN REPLY, PLEASE
REFER TO OUR FILE

December 15, 2022

Docket No. M-2022-3036434
Utility Code: 125042

CRAIG BERRY
PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS
800 W. MONTGOMERY AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19122
CRAIG.BERRY@PGWORKS.COM

Re: Annual Asset Optimization Plan (AAOP) for the Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) – Docket No. M-2022-3036434

Dear Mr. Berry:

On October 28, 2022, Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) filed its Annual Asset Optimization Plan (AAOP), pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 121.6.

The Commission’s regulations require NGDCs with an approved Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC) to file annually an AAOP with the Commission. The AAOP shall be filed 60 days after the prior 12 months of the company’s Long-Term Infrastructure Improvement Plan (LTIIIP) has expired, and pursuant to this timeframe for each successive AAOP. 52 Pa. Code § 121.6(a).

The AAOP must include:

- 1) A description that specifies all of the eligible property repaired, improved, and replaced in the prior 12-month period under its LTIIIP and prior year’s AAOP.
- 2) A description of the eligible property to be repaired, improved, and replaced in the upcoming 12-month period.

The Commission is charged with reviewing each AAOP only to determine whether the utility is in substantial compliance with the repairs, improvements, or replacements of the specific eligible property in its approved LTIIIP, for the corresponding 12-month timeframes. 52 Pa. Code § 121.6(d). The Commission has delegated the review of AAOPs to the Bureau of Technical Utility Services.

Timely Filing

52 Pa. Code § 121.6(a)

A utility with an approved DSIC shall file with the Commission, for informational purposes, an AAO plan. The AAO plan shall be filed annually with the Commission 60 days after the 12

months of its LTIP has expired and under this time frame for each successive year of the term of the LTIP.

PGW's LTIP is delineated by PGW's fiscal year (FY), rather than by calendar year. PGW's fiscal year spans September 1 of each year to August 31 of the following year, and is due by October 30. PGW filed their AAOP on October 28, 2022, and is in compliance.

Content

52 Pa. Code § 121.6(b)

An AAO plan must include:

- (1) A description that specifies all the eligible property repaired, improved and replaced in the prior 12-month period under its LTIP and prior year's AAO plan.*
- (2) A description of the eligible property to be repaired, improved and replaced in the upcoming 12-month period.*

PGW's AAOP substantially complies with this requirement.

Substantial Adherence to LTIP

52 Pa. Code § 121.6(d)

An AAO plan will be reviewed by the Commission only to determine whether the utility is in substantial compliance with the repairs, improvements or replacements of the specific eligible property in its approved LTIP for the corresponding 12-month time frames.

52 Pa. Code § 121.6(e)

Absent any major modifications to the LTIP or Commission action to reject an AAO plan within 60 days of its submission to the Commission, the AAO plan will be deemed approved. The Commission may extend its consideration period if necessary.

52 Pa. Code § 121.6(f)

If an AAO plan is rejected by the Commission, the utility will be notified of the plan's deficiencies and actions needed to repair, improve or replace eligible property to bring the utility into compliance with the work schedule in its approved LTIP. If the utility concludes that it needs to revise its LTIP to comply with the Commission's determinations, it shall file a petition for modification under § 121.5.

PGW exceeded its FY 2022 LTIP goal for accelerated pipeline replacement by 0.83 miles, with 14.18 miles of accelerated replacement. This 6.2% increase in accelerated replacement was accompanied by a corresponding increase in spending of \$18.1 million, an increase of 55% from PGW's LTIP projections for FY 2022.

Compliance with the LTIP is evaluated on a multiyear basis over the life of the LTIP. Construction and budget variations in individual years can be expected and it is reasonable to expect that over a multi-year timeframe, much of this variation will be mitigated. Over the course of PGW's second LTIP (FY 2018 - FY 2022), PGW has exceeded its projected accelerated expenditures by \$8.1 Million, which is 4.9% higher than its projections for its second LTIP. PGW also replaced or retired an additional 6.46 miles of main over its projections over the course of the LTIP, an increase of 9.5% over its projected replacements. PGW's third LTIP begins with FY 2023.

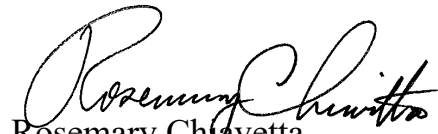
Accordingly, PGW's AAOP appears to substantially conform to the schedule set forth in the company's LTIP.

Conclusion

Upon review of PGW's Annual Asset Optimization Plan filed on October 28, 2022, it appears that the filing substantially complies with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 121.6 and it is approved. This approval is contingent upon the possibility that subsequent audits, reviews and inquiries, in any Commission proceeding, may be conducted pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 121.

If you are dissatisfied with the resolution of this matter, you may, as set forth in 52 Pa. Code § 5.44, file a petition with the Commission within twenty (20) days after the date of this letter. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to Matthew Stewart, Gas Reliability Engineer, Bureau of Technical Utility Services at mattstewar@pa.gov.

Sincerely,



Rosemary Chivetta
Secretary

cc: Kriss Brown, Law Bureau
Richard Kanaskie, BIE
Dan Searfoorce, TUS
John Van Zant, TUS
Matt Stewart, TUS