



**March 3, 2023**

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**RE: Revised LIRA Application in Compliance with National Fuel Gas Corporation's Revised 2022-2026 USECP, Docket No. M-2021-3024935**

On February 2, 2023, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (NFG) filed a further revised Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA)<sup>1</sup> application. This Secretarial Letter reflects the staff determination that the further revised LIRA application is consistent with NFG's approved 2022-2026 Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan (2022 USECP)<sup>2</sup> and the Order entered on December 22, 2022 (December 2022 Order) at the above captioned docket. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 5.44 (relating to petitions for appeal from actions of the staff).

*Discussion*

In its December 2022 Order, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) directed NFG to, *inter alia*, file a revised LIRA application form at the docket by January 21, 2023, reflecting that a minor's income is not counted for LIRA eligibility. December 2022 Order at 8.

On January 13, 2023, NFG filed and served its proposed revised LIRA application. On February 2, 2023, the Commission's Bureau of Consumer Services (BCS) issued a Secretarial Letter (February 2 Secretarial Letter) identifying one area where the revised LIRA application was inconsistent with NFG's 2022 USECP. Specifically, BCS noted that the revised LIRA application instructed applicants to not report income for household members who qualify as dependents under federal tax rules. BCS found these instructions inconsistent with the 2022 USECP, which excludes only the earned and unearned income of household members who are minors (*i.e.*, under the age of 18) when determining LIRA eligibility. NFG was directed to address this issue and file a further revised LIRA application by February 22, 2023. February 2 Secretarial Letter at 1-2, *citing* NFG's 2022 USECP at 24.

On February 2, 2023, NFG filed and served a further revised LIRA application with amended instructions clarifying that applicants should only exclude the income for minors. BCS has reviewed the further revised LIRA application and has found no further compliance issues relative to the 2022 USECP. To date, no protests or other responsive pleadings have been filed.

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<sup>1</sup> LIRA is NFG's Customer Assistance Program (CAP).

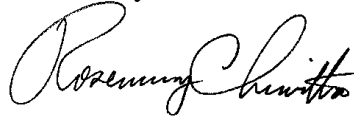
<sup>2</sup> References to NFG's 2022 USECP refer to the "clean" version filed on October 12, 2022, at Docket No. M-2021-3024935.

*Conclusion*

Accordingly, BCS finds that the further revised LIRA application is consistent with NFG's 2022 USECP and the December 2022 Order. Parties have the right to seek reconsideration of this staff action. This staff determination relative to the review of the further revised LIRA application will be deemed to be the final action of the Commission unless reconsideration is sought from the Commission within 20 days after service of this Secretarial Letter. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 5.44 (relating to petitions for appeal from actions of the staff).

If you have any questions, please contact Norma Bowman at [nobowman@pa.gov](mailto:nobowman@pa.gov).

Sincerely,



Rosemary Chiavetta  
Secretary

cc: Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairman  
Stephen M. DeFrank, Vice Chairman  
Ralph V. Yanora, Commissioner  
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