



April 27, 2023

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

Re: **Pa. PUC v. Philadelphia Gas Works, Docket No. R-2023-3037933**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

Attached for filing please find the Tenant Union Representative Network's (TURN) Prehearing Memorandum in the above captioned proceeding. Copies are being served per the attached Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert W. Ballenger
Robert W. Ballenger

On behalf of TURN

Cc. Service list
Encl.



Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission : R-2023-3037933
v. :
Philadelphia Gas Works :

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the **Prehearing Memorandum of Tenant Union Representative Network** upon the parties of record in the above captioned proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 in the manner and upon the persons listed below.

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Craig Berry, Esq.
Philadelphia Gas Works
800 West Montgomery Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122
craig.berry@pgworks.com

Daniel Clearfield, Esq.
Sarah Stoner, Esq.
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC
213 Market Street 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
dclearfield@eckertseamans.com
sstoner@eckertseamans.com

Darryl A. Lawrence, Esq.
David T. Evrard, Esq.
Mackenzie C. Battle, Esq.
Lauren E. Guerra, Esq.
Office of Consumer Advocate
555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923
DLawrence@paoca.org
DEvrard@paoca.org
MBattle@paoca.org
LGuerra@paoca.org

Sharon E. Webb, Esq.
Nakea S. Hurdle, Esq.
Office of Small Business Advocate
555 Walnut Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
sgray@pa.gov

Gina L. Miller, Esq.
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement
PA Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120
ginmiller@pa.gov

Charis Mincavage, Esq.
Adelou A. Bakare, Esq.
McNees Wallace & Nurick, LLC
100 Pine Street, PO Box 1166
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1166
cmincavage@mcneeslaw.com
abakare@mcneeslaw.com



Dennis A. Whitaker, Esq.
Kevin J. McKeon, Esq.
Todd S. Stewart, Esq.
Hawke McKeon & Sniscak LLP
100 North Tenth Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
dawhitaker@hmslegal.com
kjmckeon@hmslegal.com
tsstewart@hmslegal.com

John W. Sweet, Esq.
Elizabeth R. Marx, Esq.
Ria M. Pereira, Esq.
Lauren N. Berman, Esq.
118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
pulp@pautilitylawproject.org

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Ballenger, Esquire
Attorney for TURN
COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.
1424 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 981-3700

April 27, 2023

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
	:	R-2023-3037933
v.	:	
	:	
Philadelphia Gas Works	:	

Pre-Hearing Memorandum of Tenant Union Representative Network

Tenant Union Representative Network (TURN), through counsel Community Legal Services, Inc., hereby submits the following Pre-Hearing Memorandum pursuant to the Prehearing Conference Order of April 20, 2023. Robert W. Ballenger will be the primary speaker for TURN for purposes of the April 28, 2023 prehearing conference.

TURN will be represented in this proceeding by the attorneys listed below, who will accept electronic delivery of documents.

Robert W. Ballenger, Esquire (Attorney ID: 93434)
Joline R. Price, Esquire (Attorney ID: 315405)
Daniela E. Rakhlina-Powsner (Attorney ID: 332206)

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.
1424 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Telephone: 215-981-3700
Facsimile: 267-765-6481
E-mail: rballenger@clsphila.org; jprice@clsphila.org;
drakhlinapowsner@clsphila.org

I. History of the Proceeding.

On February 27, 2023, PGW filed a request with the PUC to increase the distribution base rates charged to PGW’s residential, commercial and industrial customers. Administrative Law Judges Eranda Vero and Arlene D. Ashton were assigned to this proceeding. By Prehearing

Conference Order dated April 20, 2023, Your Honors directed the filing of Prehearing Memoranda on April 27, 2023 and scheduled a Prehearing Conference for April 28, 2023. TURN filed a Petition to Intervene in this proceeding on April 24, 2023.

II. Identification of Issues

TURN has reviewed PGW's base rate increase filing, and generally intends to examine the justness and reasonableness of increased rates and charges to the low-income Philadelphia tenants who are members of TURN. As set forth in TURN's Petition to Intervene, we have preliminarily identified the following issues:

- 1) Whether a rate increase will result in unjust and unreasonable costs for Philadelphia's low-income residential tenants, directly through rates and charges or indirectly through rent obligations, based on all relevant factors;
- 2) Whether PGW's proposal to increase its residential customer charge to \$19.50 is just and reasonable;
- 3) Whether PGW's proposal to increase the residential volumetric charge is just and reasonable;
- 4) Whether PGW's proposal to increase the average residential heating customer bill by 9.9% is just and reasonable;
- 5) Whether a rate increase is justified given the quality of PGW's customer service;
- 6) Whether PGW's universal service program rules, policies and practices have been successful in mitigating the impact of PGW's high rates on low-income customers; and

- 7) Whether PGW's customer application policies, termination practices, payment agreement requirements, collections policies, or other policies and practices have impeded access to service and/or contributed to reduced revenue or lost opportunities for revenue growth.

TURN anticipates that other issues may come up during the course of this proceeding and reserves the right to examine any other issues that arise in the course of this proceeding.

III. Proposed Plan and Schedule of Discovery

TURN anticipates working with the parties regarding any proposed discovery schedule and/or modifications that may be appropriate for this proceeding.

IV. Proposed Witnesses and Subject Matter

TURN has not yet identified witness(es) to present testimony in this matter. TURN will inform the parties and Your Honors in the event TURN intends to introduce witness testimony, including whether such witness testimony will be sponsored by any other party to these proceedings.

V. Proposed Litigation Schedule

TURN has engaged in discussions via email and conference call with the other parties regarding a litigation schedule. TURN anticipates working with the parties to develop a proposal for such on-the-record hearing examination as is necessary, efficient, and effective to produce a complete and adequate record to support the issuance of a Recommended Decision by Your Honors in this proceeding.

VI. **Conclusion**

TURN respectfully requests that this memorandum be entered into the record of this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert W. Ballenger

Robert W. Ballenger, Esquire

Kintéshia S. Scott, Esquire

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

1424 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102