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File #: 192672

February 13, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, et al. v. National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation
Docket Nos. R-2024-3045177, et al.

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for filing please find the Prehearing Conference Memorandum on behalf of National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation in the above-referenced proceeding. Copies are being provided as indicated on the Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas A. Stobbe

NAS/kl
Attachment

cc: The Honorable Charece Z. Collins (*via email; w/attachment*)
Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

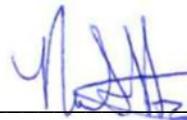
VIA E-MAIL

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Date: February 13, 2024



Nicholas A. Stobbe

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, et al.	:	
	:	
v.	:	R-2024-3045177
	:	
National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation	:	

**PREHEARING MEMORANDUM OF
NATIONAL FUEL GAS DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION**

TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CHARECE Z. COLLINS:

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.224(c) and Administrative Law Judge Charece Z. Collins (“ALJ”) Prehearing Conference Order dated February 1, 2024, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (“Distribution”) hereby submits this Prehearing Conference Memorandum.

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On December 29, 2023, Distribution filed data and exhibits supporting recovery of purchased gas costs in compliance with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission’s (“Commission”) regulations at 52 Pa. Code §§ 53.64 - 53.65.

On January 16, 2024, the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”) filed a Notice of Appearance, Complaint, Public Statement, and Verification.

On January 18, 2024, the Commission’s Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement (“I&E”) filed a Notice of Appearance.

On January 31, 2024, Distribution filed additional supporting data and exhibits as well as the prepared, written testimony of the eight witnesses listed below in support of Supplement No. 269 to Tariff Gas — Pa. P.U.C. No. 9, to be effective for service rendered on and after August 1, 2024. Distribution also submitted a Tariff Addendum. The Tariff Supplement and the Addendum

set forth the specific rates proposed by Distribution for recovery of purchased gas costs effective on August 1, 2024.

On February 1, 2024, the Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) filed a Notice of Appearance, Complaint, and Public Statement.

Also on February 1, 2024, a Prehearing Conference Order was issued, which, among other things, scheduled a telephonic prehearing conference for February 16, 2024, at 10:00 AM, and directed the parties to file prehearing memoranda on or before February 13, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

II. COUNSEL

Distribution will be represented by the following counsel in this proceeding:

Anthony D. Kanagy (ID # 85522)
Nicholas A. Stobbe (ID # 329583)
Post & Schell, P.C.
17 North Second Street
12th Floor
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nstobbe@postschell.com

Distribution’s counsel are authorized to receive copies of all documents served in this proceeding. Please include Mr. Kanagy and Mr. Stobbe on all correspondence in this proceeding. In addition, Distribution agrees to receive service of documents electronically in this proceeding. For the purposes of the February 16, 2024, Prehearing Conference, Mr. Kanagy will act as primary counsel for Distribution.

III. WITNESSES AND ISSUES

Distribution, as part of its direct case, presented the following witnesses who are testifying to the matters as explained in their statements and exhibits that were filed on January 31, 2024:

Witness

Christopher A. Cej
National Fuel Gas Distribution
Corporation
6363 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Marc T. Cuthbertson
National Fuel Gas Distribution
Corporation
6363 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Caitlin A. DiGiore
National Fuel Gas Distribution
Corporation
6363 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Gregory D. Harts
National Fuel Gas Distribution
Corporation
6363 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Nicholas J. Hewa
National Fuel Gas Distribution
Corporation
6363 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Tracy Wesoloski
National Fuel Gas Distribution
Corporation
6363 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Lisa A. Petko
National Fuel Gas Distribution
Corporation
6363 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Statement

Distribution PGC Statement No. 1
and Exhibits identified therein

Distribution PGC Statement No. 2
and Exhibits identified therein

Distribution PGC Statement No. 3
and Exhibits identified therein

Distribution PGC Statement No. 4
and Exhibits identified therein

Distribution PGC Statement No. 5
and Exhibits identified therein

Distribution PGC Statement No. 6
and Exhibits identified therein

Distribution PGC Statement No. 7
and Exhibits Identified therein.

Cathy Cherven-Oczytko
National Fuel Gas Distribution
Corporation
6363 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

Distribution PGC Statement No. 8
and Exhibits Identified therein.

The issues and subject matter addressed by each witness are set forth in their direct testimony. Distribution may present additional witnesses, testimony and exhibits on matters arising during the course of the proceeding, including matters raised by other parties.

Distribution will amend its prefiled statements and exhibits, if appropriate, during the course of this proceeding, based upon more recent information, as such information becomes available. Such update(s) may reflect changes in information relevant to the determination of the proper level of purchased gas cost recovery rates for the 12 months ending July 31, 2024, including the effects of quarterly changes in rates for recovery of purchased gas costs pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 53.64.(i)(5).

It is noted that the rates that will become effective on August 1, 2024, in all likelihood, will be different from the rates proposed by Distribution at this time because the final rates will be calculated to reflect the quarterly updates that became effective on February 1, 2024, and the quarterly update that will become effective on May 1, 2024, differences between projected and actual purchased gas costs and recoveries for the period through June 30, 2024, and changes in forecasts of gas costs during the application period.

IV. PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Distribution, I&E, OSBA, and the OCA have agreed to the following schedule for this proceeding:

February 16, 2024
March 8, 2024
March 22, 2024

Prehearing Conference
Written Direct Testimony of All Non-Company Parties
Written Rebuttal Testimony of All Parties

March 29, 2024 (by 12:00 p.m.)	Written Surrebuttal Testimony of All Parties
April 2, 2024	Oral Rejoinder Outline
April 3, 2024	Telephonic Evidentiary Hearings
April 11, 2024	Main Briefs Due
April 17, 2024	Reply Briefs Due

V. DISCOVERY

Distribution does not propose any special orders regarding discovery. However, it is Distribution's understanding that the OCA plans to propose discovery modifications that Distribution does not oppose. Interrogatories have already been served on Distribution in this proceeding. Distribution is unaware of any discovery disputes. Further, Distribution encourages the use of informal discovery.

Distribution believes that a protective order is necessary with regard to discovery in this proceeding. Distribution intends to request a protective order to limit the disclosure of competitive business information or other confidential information.

VI. SETTLEMENT

Distribution is willing to meet with the other parties to discuss settlement of this proceeding. To date, no settlement discussions have been held.

Respectfully submitted,



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Nicholas A. Stobbe (ID #329583)
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Date: February 13, 2024

Counsel for National Fuel Gas
Distribution Corporation