

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	R-2024-3045945
Office of Small Business Advocate	:	C-2024-3047498
Office of Consumer Advocate	:	C-2024-3047727
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC	:	
1307(f) Proceeding	:	

PREHEARING ORDER

Pursuant to Section 1307(f) of the Public Utility Code, Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC (Peoples Natural Gas, the Company or PNG) filed a Pro Forma Supplement with proposed changes to the Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC – Peoples Natural Gas Division’s Retail Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No.47 and the Peoples Gas Division’s Retail Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 8. This filing was docketed at R-2024-3045945, to provide for projected changes in tariff rates resulting from changes in purchased gas costs.¹

In the tariff supplement, Peoples Natural Gas proposes a decrease of \$0.2230 per Mcf, or -2.6%, in the Residential rate for Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC – Peoples Natural Gas Division (Peoples Natural Gas Division or PNGD), and an increase of \$0.5287 per Mcf, or 4.8%, in the Residential rate for the Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC – Peoples Gas Division (Peoples Gas Division or PGD), for recovery of purchased gas costs applicable to residential sales service customers.²

¹ See Peoples Natural Gas Exhibit No. 5 in the Company’s Initial Filing.

² Effective January 1, 2023, the public utility known as Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC legally merged with the public utility known as Peoples Gas Company LLC. The merger produced one public utility entity known as Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, which entity has two divisions: Peoples Natural Gas Division and Peoples Gas Division. When a division is not specified, the combined divisions will be referred to herein as the Company, Peoples Natural Gas or PNG.

The proposed rates, if approved by the Commission, would produce a decrease in the annual Residential rate from the current \$853 to the proposed \$835 for Peoples Natural Gas Division customers, and an increase in the annual Residential rate from the current \$1,080 to the proposed \$1,122 for Peoples Gas Division customers.

Various parties have entered appearances in addition to the utilities, including the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (BIE), the Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA), and the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA). In addition, complaints were filed by OSBA at Docket No. C-2024-3047498, and by OCA at Docket No. C-2024-3047727 against Peoples Natural Gas. No party indicated to date any opposition to consolidating those complaints into these rate proceedings, and that will be so ordered in Ordering Paragraphs below.

By Notice issued March 28, 2024, the Office of Administrative Law Judge (OALJ) scheduled a prehearing conference for April 8, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., as an initial call-in telephonic prehearing conference, with the presiding officer and all parties appearing through the Commission's conference bridge capability.

On March 28, 2024, the presiding officer served the Prehearing Conference Order on the parties and outlined some procedural rules and processes, including the requirement to file a prehearing memorandum. On April 2, 2024, the Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association (PIOGA) filed a Petition to Intervene. Prehearing Memoranda were filed on behalf of the Company, BIE, OSBA, OCA and PIOGA.

The presiding officer conducted the prehearing conference on April 8, 2024 with the following parties present and represented by counsel: Peoples Natural Gas, BIE, OSBA, OCA and PIOGA. At the prehearing conference, the parties considered issues raised by the filings, discussed prehearing matters and established a litigation schedule. This prehearing order memorializes the matters discussed, decided and agreed to by the parties during the prehearing conference. In addition, PIOGA's intervention request was unopposed and will be granted in Ordering Paragraphs herein.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the formal complaints filed by the Office of Small Business Advocate at Docket No. C-2024-3047498 and by the Office of Consumer Advocate at Docket No. C-2024-3047727 are consolidated with this proceeding for the purposes of hearing and Recommended Decision.
2. That the Petition to Intervene filed by Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association in Docket No. R-2024-3045945 on April 2, 2024, is granted.
3. That the proposed discovery procedures in the Prehearing Memoranda of the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement and the Office of Consumer Advocate are approved as discussed between and agreed to among the parties. For the purposes of this case:
 - a. Answers to written interrogatories shall be served in-hand within **ten (10) calendar** days of service.
 - b. Objections to interrogatories shall be communicated orally to opposing party within **three (3) calendar** days of service; unresolved objections shall be served on the other party in writing within **five (5) calendar** days of service of interrogatories.
 - c. Motions to dismiss objections and/or direct the answering of interrogatories shall be filed within **three (3) calendar** days of service of written objections.
 - d. Answers to motions to dismiss objections and/or direct the answering of interrogatories shall be filed within **three (3) calendar** days of service of such motions.

e. Requests for admissions will be deemed admitted unless answered within **ten (10) calendar** days or objected to within **five (5) calendar** days of service.

f. Answers to on-the-record data requests shall be served in-hand within **five (5) calendar** days of the requests.

g. Discovery served after 12:00 noon on a Friday or after 12:00 p.m. on any business day preceding a state holiday will be deemed to be served on the next business day.

4. That the litigation schedule for this case shall be as follows:

Direct testimony of parties other than Peoples	May 1, 2024
Rebuttal testimony	May 20, 2024
Surrebuttal testimony (in writing)	May 28, 2024
Company's rejoinder	May 31, 2024
Witness Lists	May 31, 2024
Hearing – Telephonic	June 3, 2024
Main Briefs	June 12, 2024
Reply Briefs	June 18, 2024
Last Public Meeting date before effective date	September 12, 2024
Suspension ends-new rates effective	October 1, 2024

5. That the dates for the service of testimony and the service and filing of briefs in Ordering Paragraph 6, above, shall mean the “in-hand” receipt date of the testimony or briefs.

6. That service of documents in this proceeding shall be done electronically. Generally, the “date of service” shall be the date of electronic transmission, subject to the following:

a. For documents transmitted after 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, the date of service shall be the next regular business day.

b. For documents served after noon on any Friday, or any day preceding a legal holiday in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the date of service shall be the next regular business day.

c. The Parties List which is attached to this Prehearing Order includes the electronic mail address for each party known as of the date of this Order. The parties are directed to notify the Administrative Law Judge, the Secretary's Bureau and all other parties with any corrections or amendments to this list.

d. All parties shall forward to the Administrative Law Judge a hard copy for all documents which exceed 20 pages in length total, including cover letters and Certificates of Service, which documents must be mailed within three (3) business days of when electronic service is effectuated.

7. That the parties may serve the electronic copies of documents in "PDF" format. However, with respect to documents electronically served on the Administrative Law Judge and any technical advisors assigned in this case, the parties are to serve on the Administrative Law Judge and any technical advisors such documents in Word format **only**.

8. That the evidentiary hearings are scheduled to commence by telephone on **Monday, June 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.**

9. That any party that requests to cross-examine the Company's witness, Lynda Petrichevich, must notify the presiding officer and all other parties on or before **4:00 p.m. on May 23, 2024**. If no request is made, the attendance of Witness Petrichevich will be excused and the Company shall ensure her verification statement is attached to her testimony when the written testimony is proffered at the evidentiary hearing.

10. That in the event cross-examination of the testimony of Witness Petrichevich is requested by a non-Company party, the parties will convene for an evidentiary hearing, by telephone, on **Thursday, May 30, 2024**, at **1:00 p.m. EST (9:00 a.m. AKDT)**.

11. That parties serving prepared testimony in proceedings pending before the Commission, in compliance with 52 Pa.Code § 5.412(f), shall be required, within thirty (30) calendar days after the evidentiary hearing, to either eFile with or provide to the Secretary's Bureau a Compact Disc (CD) containing all testimony furnished to the court reporter during the proceeding, consistent with the Commission's Implementation Order, dated January 10, 2013, at Docket No. M-2012-2331973.

12. That the Service List attached hereto shall be used for the remainder of this case for the service of discovery requests, objections thereto, motions, testimony, etc. Changes to the Service List shall be on Order of the Administrative Law Judge.

13. That the parties shall coordinate an agreement as to the order of witnesses and Peoples Natural Gas Company, on behalf of itself and Peoples Gas Company, shall provide a witness list to the presiding officer by **Friday, May 31, 2024**.

14. That any joint settlement petitions, which are encouraged by this Commission at 52 Pa. Code §5.231(a), should be served on the Administrative Law Judge on or before the date set for filing reply briefs.

15. That the parties **must** notify the Administrative Law Judge on or before **12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, May 24, 2024** if a settlement has been reached which obviates the need for a full evidentiary hearing.

16. If the parties settle, the parties will meet with the presiding officer on **Monday, June 3, 2024**, at 9:00 a.m. by telephone conference call to submit the evidence by stipulation into the hearing record, unless the presiding officer orders otherwise.

**R-2024-3045945 - PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION V. PEOPLES
NATURAL GAS COMPANY LLC 1307(F)**

Revised: April 8, 2024

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