# PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION HARRISBURG, PA 17120

Public Meeting held April 25, 2024

## Commissioners Present:

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair Ralph V. Yanora Kathryn L. Zerfuss John F. Coleman, Jr.

Pennsylvania Public Utility
Commission
v.
PECO Energy Company

Docket Number: R-2024-3046932

#### **ORDER**

## BY THE COMMISSION:

On March 28, 2024, PECO Energy Company (PECO Energy), Utility Code 122300, filed Tariff Gas-Pa. P.U.C. No. 6 (Tariff No. 6) to become effective May 27, 2024, containing proposed changes in rates, rules, and regulations calculated to produce \$111 million (23.1%) in additional annual revenues, an increase in residential customer's bill using 80 Ccf of natural gas from \$97.98 to \$114.13/month (16.5 %). On April 11, 2024, the Office of Consumer Advocate filed a Formal Complaint. On April 16, 2024, the Office of Small Business Advocate filed a formal complaint. Various oppositions were also filed.

PECO Energy stated that the requested increase in its base rates is necessary to permit the Company to earn a fair return on the substantial investments used and useful in the Company's provision of safe and reliable gas service to customers, to support additional investments in utility infrastructure in accordance with the Company's Commission-approved infrastructure replacement program, to deploy new information technology to meet our customers' expectations and drive operational improvements and efficiencies and to recover higher operating expenses necessary to provide gas utility service, including increased costs of labor, contracting, and materials.

Pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. §1308(d), the filing will be suspended by operation of law until December 27, 2024, unless permitted by Commission Order to become effective at an earlier date.

Investigation and analysis of this proposed tariff filing and the supporting data indicate that the proposed changes in rates, rules, and regulations may be unlawful, unjust, unreasonable, and contrary to the public interest. It also appears that consideration should be given to the reasonableness of PECO Energy's existing rates, rules, and regulations; **THEREFORE**,

#### IT IS ORDERED:

- 1. That an investigation on Commission motion be, and hereby is, instituted to determine the lawfulness, justness, and reasonableness of the rates, rules, and regulations contained in the proposed PECO Tariff Gas-PA. P.U.C. No. 6.
- 2. That the proposed PECO Tariff Gas-PA. P.U.C. No. 6 is suspended by operation of law until December 27, 2024, unless otherwise directed by Order of the Commission.

3. That pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §53.71 tariff supplements shall be filed with

the Commission and posted at the company to announce that the aforementioned Original

Tariff is suspended until the date stated in the Commission Order. Attached is a sample

copy of a suspension supplement which shall be filed in triplicate or, if applicable, e-filed

with the Commission within 10 days following the Order entry date.

4. That this investigation shall include consideration of the lawfulness,

justness, and reasonableness of the PECO Energy Company's existing rates, rules, and

regulations.

5. That the case be assigned to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for the

prompt scheduling of such hearings as may be necessary culminating in the issuance of a

Recommended Decision.

6. That a copy of this Order shall be served upon PECO Energy Company, the

Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office

of Small Business Advocate, and any persons who have filed Formal Complaints against

the proposed tariff supplement.

BY THE COMMISSION,

Rosemary Chiavetta

Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: April 25, 2024

ORDER ENTERED: April 25, 2024

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# **ATTACHMENT**

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