



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

January 16, 2025

E-FILED

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

**Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Pike County Light & Power Company
(Gas) / Docket No. R-2024-3052357**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed please find the Complaint, Public Statement, and Verification, on behalf of the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”), in the above-referenced proceeding.

Copies will be served on all known parties in this proceeding, as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rebecca Lyttle

Rebecca Lyttle
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Attorney ID No. 201399

Enclosures

cc: Mark Ewen
Parties of Record

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission : **Docket No. R-2024-3052357**
:
: **v.** :
:
: **Pike County Light & Power Company** :
(Gas) :
:

**COMPLAINT OF THE
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**

1. The Complainant is:

NazAarah Sabree
Small Business Advocate
Office of Small Business Advocate
Forum Place
555 Walnut Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

2. The name and address of the attorneys for the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”) are as follows:

Rebecca Lyttle, Esq.
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Office of Small Business Advocate
Forum Place
555 Walnut Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101
relyttle@pa.gov

Steven C. Gray, Esq.
Senior Attorney
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Office of Small Business Advocate
Forum Place
555 Walnut Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101
sgray@pa.gov

3. The respondent utility is:

Pike County Light & Power Company
105 Schneider Lane
Milford, PA 18337

4. The Complainant is authorized and directed by the Small Business Advocate Act, Act 181 of 1988, 73 P.S. §§ 399.41 - 399.50, to represent the interests of small business consumers of utility services in matters before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”).

5. This Complaint is filed against the Pike County Light & Power Company. On December 30, 2024, Pike County Light & Power Company (“Company” and/or “Pike”) filed Supplement No. 127 to Tariff Gas – Pa. P.U.C. No. 6 at Docket No. R-2024-3052357.

6. Pike has been operating under gas rates that went into effect on July 28, 2021. The Company proposes to increase its rates to produce additional annual operating revenues of \$905,900 per year or an overall increase of 35.8% in total gas distribution revenues. The Company proposes that the rate increase become effective on February 28, 2025. For the Commercial and industrial customer class, the Company is proposing an overall increase in delivery revenues of \$72,385, which is a 41.4% increase.

7. The Company is engaged in the business of furnishing natural gas service to approximately 1,370 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in Westfall Township and Matamoras Borough, and the vicinity, in Pike County, Pennsylvania, of whom nearly 86 are commercial and industrial customers,

8. After preliminary review of the materials filed by the Company, Complainant believes, and therefore avers, that the materials submitted by the company, 50.63 percent common equity ratio and the cost of equity return of 10.20 percent, may be insufficient to justify the rate increase requested and that the Company’s present and proposed rates, rules, and

conditions of service may be unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory, and otherwise contrary to law, particularly as they pertain to small business customers.

9. Complainant believes, and therefore avers, that the Company's proposed tariff changes and proposed rates, rate design, and revenue allocation are or may be unjust, unreasonable, and unlawfully discriminatory in violation of, inter alia, Sections 1301 and 1304 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §§1301 and 1304, and contrary to appropriate public policy and sound ratemaking considerations and may not be supported by the materials filed by Pike.

10. In view of the foregoing, the Small Business Advocate respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission:

- A. Suspend and investigate the Supplement No. 127 to Tariff Gas – Pa. P.U.C. No. 6 of Pike County Light and Power Company;
- B. At the conclusion of such investigation, reject the proposed new rates and other tariff changes in Supplement No. 127 to Tariff Gas – Pa. P.U.C. No. 6, to the extent required to make certain that Pike’s Gas’s rates are lawful, just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory to small business customers; and
- C. Grant such other relief as may be necessary or appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rebecca Lyttle
Rebecca Lyttle
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Attorney ID No. 301299

For:
NazAarah Sabree
Small Business Advocate

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of Small Business Advocate
Forum Place
555 Walnut Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dated: January 16, 2025

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	Docket No. R-2024-3052357
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Pike County Light & Power Company	:	
(Gas)	:	
	:	

**PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**

The Small Business Advocate is authorized and directed to represent the interest of small business consumers of utility services in Pennsylvania under the provisions of the Small Business Advocate Act, Act 181 of 1988, 73 P.S. §§ 399.41 - 399.50 (“Act”). The Act further provides that the Small Business Advocate is to issue publicly a written statement stating concisely the specific interest of small business consumers to be protected by initiation of or intervention in any proceeding involving those interests before the Public Utility Commission or any other agency or court.

This public statement relates to the filing today by the Small Business Advocate of a Complaint against the proposed base rate tariff filing, Supplement No. 127 To Tariff Gas Pa P.U.C. No. 6 by the Pike County Power and Light Company (“Pike” and/or “Company”).

The Small Business Advocate files this formal complaint against the Company’s proposed base rate tariff filing to protect the interests of the Company’s small business customers.

A thorough inquiry by the Commission into all elements of the Company's proposed base rate tariff filing is necessary to ensure that the tariff filing is lawful, just, reasonable, and not discriminatory to Pike's small business customers.

In view of the foregoing, the Small Business Advocate will participate in proceedings before the Public Utility Commission to investigate the reasonableness of the proposed base rate tariff filing. The Small Business Advocate will ask the Commission to deny any proposed new rates and other tariff changes that apply to small business customers that are not proven by Pike to be lawful, just, reasonable, and not discriminatory to the Company's small business customers.

Dated: January 16, 2025

VERIFICATION

I, NazAarah Sabree, hereby state that the facts set forth herein above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: January 16, 2025



(Signature)

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	Docket No. R-2024-3052357
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v.	:	
	:	
Pike County Light & Power Company	:	
(Gas)	:	
	:	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served via email (*unless otherwise noted below*) upon the following persons, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

The Honorable Charles E. Rainey, Jr.
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Commonwealth Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
crainey@pa.gov

Michael A. Podskoch, Jr., Esquire
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
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501 Corporate Circle, Suite 302
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wesnyder@hmslegal.com

Date: January 16, 2025

/s/ Rebecca Lyttle
Rebecca Lyttle
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Attorney ID No. 201399