

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, et al.	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket#R-2025-3052742
	:	
National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation	:	

PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER

A Prehearing Conference is scheduled in this case for **Monday, February 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** To participate in the conference, you must dial the toll-free number listed below. You will be prompted to enter a PIN, which is also listed below. You will be asked to speak your name and then the telephone system will connect you to the conference.

CALL-IN INFORMATION

Toll-free Bridge Number: **1-888-795-4352**
PIN: **72378378**

You must call into the conference on the scheduled day and time. Failure of any party to attend the prehearing conference without good cause shall constitute a waiver of all objections to the agreements reached and matters decided at the prehearing conference. You will not be called by the Administrative Law Judge.

The parties are hereby directed to comply with the following requirements:

1. Each party must file and serve, **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2025**, a Prehearing Conference Memorandum which sets forth:
 - a. The history of the proceeding;
 - b. The issues you intend to present and your position on each issue;
 - c. A proposed plan and schedule of discovery;

- d. A listing of your proposed witnesses and the subject of their testimony;
- e. The possibility of settlement;
- f. The amount of hearing time needed;
- g. A proposed litigation schedule, agreed to by all parties if possible; and
- h. Any other matter deemed appropriate.

The undersigned should be served by email at charcollin@pa.gov. There is no need to follow email service by hard copy until further notice. **Parties represented by multiple attorneys should designate in their prehearing memorandum a lead representative for the purposes of the prehearing conference.**

To assist with the procedural schedule, the reply-brief deadline in this proceeding is April 11, 2025.

2. A request for a change of the scheduled Prehearing Conference date must state the agreement or opposition of other parties and must be submitted by email to the undersigned no later than three (3) days prior to the Prehearing Conference. 52 Pa. Code § 1.15(b). Such changes are granted only in rare situations where sufficient cause exists. Requests for changes of subsequent prehearing conferences or hearings, if any, should also be served directly on the presiding Administrative Law Judge.

In accordance with the foregoing, absent a continuance for good cause, all parties must be prepared to participate in the scheduled Prehearing Conference.

3. Please review the regulations pertaining to prehearing conferences, 52 Pa. Code § 5.221-§ 5.224, and in particular, § 5.222(d) which provides, in part, that parties and counsel will be expected to attend the conference fully prepared for a useful discussion of all problems involved in the proceeding, both procedural and substantive, and fully authorized to make commitments with respect thereto. The preparation should include, among other things, advance

study of all relevant materials, and advance informal communication between the participants, including requests for additional data and information, to the extent it appears feasible and desirable.

4. Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 1.21 & 1.22, if you are an individual, you may represent yourself, or you may be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or admitted *pro hac vice*. However, if you are a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, you must be represented in this proceeding by an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or admitted *pro hac vice*. Unless you are an attorney, you may not represent someone else. Attorneys shall insure that their appearance is entered in accordance with the provisions of 52 Pa. Code § 1.24(b).

5. The parties shall conduct discovery pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.321-5.373. I encourage the parties to cooperate and exchange information on an informal basis. See and 52 Pa. Code § 5.322. The parties may also use alternative means of discovery, such as discovery conferences or depositions. All discovery requests should be as narrowly tailored as possible, and parties should coordinate their discovery if possible. Discovery responses are due on a best-efforts basis. The parties shall cooperate rather than engage in numerous or protracted discovery disagreements that require my participation to resolve. All motions to compel shall contain a certification by counsel setting forth the specific actions the parties have undertaken to resolve their discovery disputes informally. If a motion to compel does not contain this certification, I will contact the parties and direct them to resolve the matter informally and provide the certification if they are unsuccessful. There are limitations on discovery and sanctions for abuse of the discovery process. 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.361, 5.371-5.372.

6. That the parties shall stipulate to any matters they reasonably can to expedite this proceeding, lessen the burden of time and expense in litigation and conserve precious administrative hearing resources. 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.232, 5.234. All stipulations shall be reduced to writing, signed by the parties to be bound thereby, and moved into the record during the hearing(s) in this case. An exception to this requirement may occur when circumstances

warrant. In those warranted circumstances, an oral presentation of a stipulation is permissible, if it is followed by a reduction to writing as herein directed.

7. Failure of a party to attend the prehearing conference without good cause shown shall constitute a waiver of all objections to the agreements reached and matters decided at the prehearing conference, including, but not limited to, any special discovery rules and the litigation schedule established for this case. 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.222(e).

8. The parties are reminded that it is the Commission's policy to encourage settlements. 52 Pa. Code § 5.231(a). The parties are strongly urged to seriously explore this possibility. In the event of a settlement, a joint settlement petition executed by representatives of all parties to be bound thereby, together with statements in support of settlement by all signatory parties, must be either eFiled with or provided to the Secretary's Bureau via a Compact Disc (CD). The parties should also serve the documents on the undersigned via email in a WORD-formatted document in addition to a searchable ADOBE or other compatible PDF format.

9. **You must serve the presiding Administrative Law Judge directly (via email) with a copy of any document that you file in this proceeding.** If you send the undersigned any correspondence or document, you must send a copy to all other parties. For your convenience, a copy of the Commission's current service list of the parties to this proceeding is enclosed with this Order.

Date: February 18, 2025

_____/s/
Charece Z. Collins
Administrative Law Judge

R-2025-3052742 - PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION v. NATIONAL FUEL GAS

Revised: February 12, 2025

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