



February 18, 2025

VIA E-File Only

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

Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division
Docket No. R-2024-3052716

Petition to Intervene and Answer of CAUSE-PA

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Please find the attached **Petition to Intervene and Answer of the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA)** in the above noted proceeding.

As indicated on the attached Certificate of Service, service on the parties was accomplished by email only.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ria M. Pereira, Esq.
Counsel for CAUSE-PA

CC: Certificate of Service

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission :
 :
 v. : Docket No. R-2024-3052716
 :
 UGI Utilities, Inc. - Gas Division :

**PETITION TO INTERVENE AND ANSWER
OF THE COALITION FOR AFFORDABLE UTILITY SERVICES
AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN PENNSYLVANIA**

PENNSYLVANIA UTILITY LAW PROJECT

Counsel for CAUSE-PA

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February 18, 2025

Pursuant to the provisions of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“PUC” or “Commission”), 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.61-5.76, the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA), through its counsel at the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project, hereby petitions the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) to intervene and files its Answer in the above-captioned proceeding. In support thereof, CAUSE-PA states as follows:

1. On January 27, 2025, UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division (UGI or the Company) submitted a rate filing, Supplement No. 55 to UGI Gas Tariff – PA P.U.C. Nos. 7 and 7S, which proposes to increase UGI’s annual jurisdictional revenue by approximately \$110.395 million, or by 9.7% over existing rates. (UGI Statement of Reasons at 1).

2. If the Company’s request is approved in its entirety, the monthly bill for a residential heating customer using an average of 73.7 hundred cubic feet (Ccf) per month will increase from \$104.47 to \$115.74, or by 10.8%. (Id.)

3. In its proposed rate structure, UGI seeks to increase its fixed monthly residential customer charge 33% from \$15.00 to \$19.95, an increase of \$4.95 per month – or \$59.40 per year. (UGI St. 10 at 23).

Petition to Intervene

4. Eligibility to intervene in Commission proceedings is governed by 52 Pa. Code § 5.72, which provides in relevant part that “[a] petition to intervene may be filed by a person claiming a right to intervene or an interest of such nature that intervention is necessary or appropriate to the administration of the statute under which the proceeding is brought.” 52 Pa. Code § 5.72(a).

5. Section 5.72 further provides that the right or interest may be one “which may be directly affected and which is not adequately represented by existing participants, and as to which

the petitioner may be bound by the action of the Commission in the proceeding.” 52 Pa. Code. § 5.72(a)(2).

6. Even though Section 5.72 speaks of the rights of a “person” to intervene, the Commonwealth Court has consistently stated that “an association may have standing as a representative of its members ... as long as an organization has at least one member who has or will suffer a direct, immediate, and substantial injury to an interest as a result of the challenged action, [i.e., is aggrieved, the organization] has standing.” Energy Cons. Council of Pa. v. Pa. PUC, 995 A.2d 465, 476 (Pa. Commw. 2010) (alteration in original) (citing Tripps Park v. Pa. PUC, 415 A.2d 967 (Pa. Commw. 1980); Parents United for Better Schools v. School District of Philadelphia, 646 A.2d 689 (Pa. Commw. 1994)).

7. CAUSE-PA is an unincorporated association of low and moderate income individuals that advocates on behalf of its members to enable consumers of limited economic means to connect to and maintain affordable water, electric, heating, and telecommunication services.

8. CAUSE-PA membership is open to moderate and low income individuals residing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who are committed to the goal of helping low income families maintain affordable access to utility services and achieve economic independence.

9. CAUSE-PA is located, c/o the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, at 118 Locust Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

10. CAUSE-PA has a significant interest in the impact that UGI’s proposed rate increase will have on moderate and low income residential customers. These interests are not adequately represented by other participants in this proceeding.

11. Members of CAUSE-PA are located within UGI's service territory and will be directly affected by the outcome of this proceeding. Particularly, this proceeding will affect the price that CAUSE-PA members pay for gas service as well as the reliability and quality of that service.

12. CAUSE-PA has standing to intervene because its members have or will suffer a direct, immediate, and substantial injury to an interest as a result of this proceeding. See Energy Cons. Council of Pa., 995 A.2d at 476.

13. CAUSE-PA is represented in this proceeding by:

Ria M. Pereira, Esquire
Elizabeth R. Marx, Esquire
John W. Sweet, Esquire
Lauren N. Berman, Esquire
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
118 Locust Street
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Telephone: 717-236-9486
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14. Counsel for CAUSE-PA consents to the service of documents by electronic mail to pulp@pautilitylawproject.org, as provided in 52 Pa. Code § 1.54(b)(3).

Answer

15. CAUSE-PA has preliminarily reviewed UGI's rate filing and objects to UGI's request on the grounds that the proposed rate increase could result in unjust and unreasonable rates that would impose economic hardship on low and moderate income residential customers.

16. Continued delivery of safe, affordable gas service is of critical importance to the safety, welfare, and economic stability of all Pennsylvanians – particularly those with limited financial means. In recognition of this fact, the law requires that utility services, including natural gas services, will be universally available at an affordable rate, and that all universal service programs be developed, maintained, and appropriately funded to ensure such affordability. See 66 Pa. C.S.

§ 2203(3), (8). UGI's general rate increase proposal, and its proposal to significantly increase its fixed residential customer charge, could have a disparate impact on households with limited economic means and will undermine bill savings achieved through adoption of energy efficiency and conservation measures.

17. CAUSE-PA is concerned about the impacts of UGI's Weather Normalization Adjustment (WNA) mechanism on low and moderate income customers. Based on a preliminary review, CAUSE-PA submits that the continued application of UGI's WNA may result in unjust, unreasonable, and discriminatory rates for consumers and must be reviewed by the Commission.

18. CAUSE-PA is also concerned whether UGI's existing and proposed terms and conditions for service are consistent with the billing, collections, and terminations standards set forth under the Public Utility Code and Commission regulations. Further scrutiny is necessary to ensure that services are provided to UGI's customers in a manner that is fully consistent with statute, regulation, and prevailing Commission policy.

19. CAUSE-PA asserts that these matters, and any future modifications presented by intervening parties or otherwise identified through the course of the proceeding, must be thoroughly reviewed and investigated to ensure that all customers are able to access safe, affordable natural gas service within the UGI gas service territory.

WHEREFORE, CAUSE-PA respectfully requests that the Commission enter an order granting CAUSE-PA full status as an intervener in this proceeding with active party status.

Respectfully submitted,

PENNSYLVANIA UTILITY LAW PROJECT
Counsel for CAUSE-PA

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Quinn".

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Date: February 18, 2025

Verification

I, Elizabeth R. Marx, legal counsel for the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency (“CAUSE-PA”), on behalf of CAUSE-PA, hereby state that the facts contained in the foregoing pleading are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, that I am duly authorized to make this Verification, 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).



On behalf of the Coalition for Affordable Utility
Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania

Date: February 18, 2025

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Respectfully Submitted,
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