

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	R-2025-3053184
Office of Consumer Advocate	:	C-2025-3053503
Office of Small Business Advocate	:	C-2025-3054391
	:	
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 Retail Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 48 and the Peoples Supplier Tariff No. S-4. This filing was docketed at R-2025-3053184, to provide for projected changes in tariff rates resulting from changes in purchased gas costs.<sup>1</sup>

In the tariff supplement, Peoples Natural Gas proposes an increase of \$0.9554 per Mcf, or +8%, in the Residential rate for Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC (Peoples Natural Gas Division or PNGD), for recovery of purchased gas costs applicable to residential sales service customers.<sup>2</sup> The proposed rates, if approved by the Commission, would produce an increase in the annual Residential rate from the current \$1,152 to the proposed \$1,229 for Peoples' customers.

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<sup>1</sup> See Peoples Natural Gas Appendix A in the Company's Initial Filing.

<sup>2</sup> Effective with the implementation of new base rates on September 27, 2024, in Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC's (Peoples or the Company) base rate proceeding at Docket No. R-2023-3044549, the rates and tariffs of the former Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC – Peoples Natural Gas Division (PNGD or Peoples Natural Gas Division) and the former Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC – Peoples Gas Division (PGD or Peoples Gas Division) were combined. As a condition of settlement, the requirement to maintain separate books and records for PNGD and PGD was terminated. Peoples' books and records for the 12 months ended December 31, 2024, and now are on a consolidated basis.

Complaints were filed by OCA at Docket No. C-2024-3053503, and by OSBA at Docket No. C-2025-3054391, against Peoples Natural Gas. No party indicated an opposition to consolidating those Complaints into these rate proceedings, and that will be so ordered in Ordering Paragraphs below.

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).

By Notice issued April 1, 2025, the Office of Administrative Law Judge (OALJ) scheduled a prehearing conference for April 10, 2025, as an initial call-in telephonic prehearing conference, with the presiding officer and all parties appearing through the Commission's conference bridge capability.

On April 1, 2025, 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. Prehearing Memoranda were filed on behalf of the Company, BIE, OCA, OSBA and Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association (PIOGA).<sup>3</sup>

The presiding officer conducted the prehearing conference on April 10, 2025, with the following parties present and represented by counsel: Peoples, BIE, OCA, OSBA 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.

THEREFORE,

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<sup>3</sup> On April 10, 2025, PIOGA filed its Petition to Intervene after the conclusion of the prehearing conference. Peoples indicated via email communication on April 10, 2025, that it had no opposition to the petition to intervene.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Formal Complaints filed by the Office of Consumer Advocate at Docket No. C-2025-3053503 and filed by the Office of Small Business Advocate at Docket No. C-2025-3054391 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-2025-3053184 on April 10, 2025, is granted.

3. That the proposed discovery procedures in the Prehearing Memorandum of 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 and requests for document production, entry for inspection, or other purposes shall be served in-hand within ten (10) calendar days of service.
- B. Objections to interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be communicated orally to the propounding party within three (3) calendar days of service of the interrogatories; unresolved objections shall be served in writing to the propounding party within five (5) calendar days of service of the interrogatories and/or requests for production.
- C. Motions to dismiss objections and/or direct the answering of interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be filed within five (5) business days of service of written objections.
- D. Answers to motions to dismiss objections and/or answering of interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be filed within three (3) business 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. Any discovery or discovery-related pleadings (such as objections, motions, and answers to same) served after

served after 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday or after 12:00 p.m. on a Friday or the day before a holiday will be deemed to have been served on the next business day for purposes of calculating the due date for any responsive filing.

After rebuttal is served, the OCA proposes that the deadlines should be reduced as follows:

- A. Answers to interrogatories and responses to requests for document production, entry for inspection, or other purposes shall be served within five (5) calendar days of service of the interrogatories or requests for production.
- B. Objections to interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be communicated orally to the propounding party within two (2) calendar days of service; unresolved objections shall be served on the propounding party in writing within three (3) calendar days of service of the interrogatories and/or requests for production.
- C. Motions to dismiss objections and/or direct the answering of interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be filed within three (3) business days of service of written objections.
- D. Answers to motions to dismiss objections and/or direct the answering of interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be filed within three (3) business days of service of such motions.
- E. Requests for admission shall be deemed admitted unless answered or objected to within three (3) calendar days of service.
- F. Discovery requests and discovery related pleadings (such as objections, motions, and answers to same) served after 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday or after 12:00 p.m. on a Friday or the day preceding a holiday shall be deemed to have been 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	April 30, 2025
Rebuttal testimony	May 13, 2025
Surrebuttal testimony (in writing)	May 19, 2025
Witness Lists	May 21, 2025

Company's oral rejoinder	May 22, 2025
Hearing – Telephonic	May 22, 2025
Main Briefs	June 6, 2025
Reply Briefs	June 13, 2025
Last Public Meeting date before effective date	September 11, 2025
Suspension ends-new rates effective	October 1, 2025

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 known electronic mail address for each party, 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 **Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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 **Monday, May 21, 2025**.

12. 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.

13. That the parties **must** notify the Administrative Law Judge on or before **Monday, May 21, 2025** if a settlement has been reached which obviates the need for a full evidentiary hearing.

14. If the parties settle or only a limited amount cross-examination is required, the parties may meet with the presiding officer on **Thursday, May 22, 2025**, 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.

Date: April 15, 2025

/s/  
Katrina L. Dunderdale  
Administrative Law Judge

**R-2025-3053184, C-2025-3053503, C-2025-3054391- PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION v. PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY LLC**

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