



Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
U.S. Steel Tower  
600 Grant Street, 44<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

TEL 412 566 6000  
FAX 412 566 6099  
www.eckertseamans.com

Lauren M. Burge  
412.566.2146  
lburge@eckertseamans.com

April 24, 2025

**Via Electronic Filing**

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary  
PA Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: Philadelphia Gas Works Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan for 2023-2027 Submitted in Compliance with 52 Pa. Code § 62.4, Docket No. M-2021-3029323; and Petition for Emergency or Expedited Order Approving Temporary Modifications to the Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan for 2023-2027, Docket No. P-2024-3048856

Dear Secretary Homsher:

The Commission recently approved a series of modifications to Philadelphia Gas Works' ("PGW") Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan for 2023-2027 ("USECP") in the above referenced dockets, specifically related to PGW's Hardship Fund Program. Most recently, on March 11, 2025, the Commission approved the Further Revised Appendix O to PGW's USECP. Through this letter, PGW is notifying the Commission that **PGW has secured additional funding from the City of Philadelphia ("City") to provide up to \$350,000 in matching grants that will be used to support PGW's Hardship Fund Program through June 30, 2025** (the end of the City's Fiscal Year 2025), and PGW is continuing discussions with the City seeking to secure additional grant assistance in future years.

As explained in previous filings, PGW's USECP originally provided that Hardship Funds were to be distributed to qualifying customers with incomes at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Level ("FPL") through grants paid by the previous Hardship Fund Program administrator (UESF) – using funds provided by the City – with matching funds provided by PGW.<sup>1</sup> UESF had stopped paying grants that had been promised to PGW customers. Thus, funds provided by the City to UESF were not being made available to PGW's customers. Since that time, however, PGW has continued discussions with the City and has secured \$350,000 in additional funds that can be used to match Hardship grants at least through the end of the City's current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2025) and is continuing these

---

<sup>1</sup> Notably, PGW's ratepayers do not pay for the additional funding provided by the City. Hardship Fund donations made by PGW to customers are reflected in PGW's bad debt expense approved as part of its base rates. Hardship Fund voluntary donations made by customers and received by PGW are not recovered in base rates; funds provided by the City similarly are not recovered in base rates.

discussions in an effort to obtain future matching grants for its customers participating in the Hardship Fund program.

PGW has begun to encumber the \$350,000 provided by the City as matching Hardship Fund grants to qualifying customers. PGW proposes to notify the Commission if additional funding from the City becomes available beyond June 30, 2025, as may be directed by the Commission. PGW believes that immediate disbursement of the City grants is in the best interest of PGW's ratepayers who are in need. The use of these City grants ensures the provision of vital assistance to our low-income families.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Copies to be served in accordance with the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Lauren M. Burge*

Lauren M. Burge

Enclosure

cc: Certificate of Service (Email Only)  
Norma Bowman ([nobowman@pa.gov](mailto:nobowman@pa.gov))  
Stephanie Wilson ([stepwilson@pa.gov](mailto:stepwilson@pa.gov))  
Louise Fink Smith ([finksmith@pa.gov](mailto:finksmith@pa.gov))

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this day I served a copy of PGW's Hardship Fund Letter upon the persons listed below in the manner indicated in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code Section 1.54.

### Via Email Only

Robert W. Ballenger, Esq.  
Joline Price, Esq.  
Community Legal Services  
1424 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia PA 19102  
[rballenger@clsphila.org](mailto:rballenger@clsphila.org)  
[jprice@clsphila.org](mailto:jprice@clsphila.org)

Elizabeth R. Marx, Esq.  
Ria Pereira, Esq.  
John Sweet, Esq.  
Lauren Berman, Esq.  
Pa Utility Law Project  
118 Locust Street  
Harrisburg PA 17101  
[pulp@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:pulp@pautilitylawproject.org)

Darryl Lawrence, Esq.  
Christy Appleby Esq.  
Office of Consumer Advocate  
555 Walnut Street 5th Floor  
Forum Place  
Harrisburg PA 17101  
[dlawrence@paoca.org](mailto:dlawrence@paoca.org)  
[cappleby@paoca.org](mailto:cappleby@paoca.org)

Louise Fink Smith, Esq.  
Law Bureau  
PA Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265  
400 North Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265  
[Finksmith@pa.gov](mailto:Finksmith@pa.gov)

Devin McDougall, Esq.  
POWER Interfaith  
1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 1130  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
[dmcdougall@earthjustice.org](mailto:dmcdougall@earthjustice.org)

Rebecca Lyttle, Esq.  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
Forum Place  
555 Walnut Street 1st Floor  
Harrisburg PA 17101  
[relyttle@pa.gov](mailto:relyttle@pa.gov)

Allison Kaster, Esq.  
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement  
PA Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
[akaster@pa.gov](mailto:akaster@pa.gov)

Charis Mincavage, Esq.  
McNees Wallace & Nurick  
100 Pine Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
[cmincavage@mcneeslaw.com](mailto:cmincavage@mcneeslaw.com)

Joseph Magee  
Lori Mohr  
Bureau of Consumer Services  
PA Public Utility Commission  
PO Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265  
[jmagee@pa.gov](mailto:jmagee@pa.gov)  
[laumohr@pa.gov](mailto:laumohr@pa.gov)

Graciela Christlieb, Esq.  
Philadelphia Gas Works  
800 West Montgomery Avenue  
Philadelphia PA 19122  
[Graciela.Christlieb@pgworks.com](mailto:Graciela.Christlieb@pgworks.com)

/s/ *Lauren M. Burge*

---

Lauren M. Burge, Esq.

Dated: April 24, 2025