



PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS

800 West Montgomery Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19122

**Graciela Christlieb, Senior Attorney
Legal Department**

Direct Dial: 215-684-6164

FAX: 215-684-6798

E-mail: graciela.christlieb@pgworks.com

June 30, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: Donald Vanore v. Philadelphia Gas Works; Docket No. C-2025-3055649

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Enclosed for electronic filing please find Philadelphia Gas Works' Preliminary Objection to the Formal Complaint in the above-referenced matter. Copies to be served in accordance with the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

/s/ Graciela Christlieb

Graciela Christlieb, Esquire

Enclosure

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of Philadelphia Gas Works' Preliminary Objection upon the persons listed below in the manner indicated in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code §1.54 (relating to service by a party).

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Donald Vanore
511 Queen Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
danny@bizband.com

Date: June 30, 2025

/s/ Graciela Christlieb

Graciela Christlieb, Esquire

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Donald Vanore,	:	
Complainant,	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2025-3055649
	:	
Philadelphia Gas Works,	:	
Respondent.	:	

NOTICE TO PLEAD

To: Donald Vanore
511 Queen Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
danny@bizband.com

Pursuant to Pa. Code § 5.101, you are hereby notified that any answer to the enclosed Preliminary Objections of Philadelphia Gas Works must be filed within ten (10) days of the date of service of the Preliminary Objection.

All pleadings, such as an Answer to Preliminary Objections, must be filed with the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission with a copy served to counsel for PGW and, when applicable, the Administrative Law Judge or Special Agent presiding over the proceeding.

/s/ Graciela Christlieb

Graciela Christlieb, Esquire
Philadelphia Gas Works
800 W. Montgomery Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122
graciela.christlieb@pgworks.com

Date: June 16, 2025

Counsel for PGW

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Donald Vanore,	:	
Complainant,	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2025-3055649
	:	
Philadelphia Gas Works,	:	
Respondent.	:	

PRELIMINARY OBJECTION OF PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS

Philadelphia Gas Works (“PGW” or “Respondent”), pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.101(a)(4) and (7) of the Commission’s regulations, hereby submits the following Preliminary Objection to the Formal Complaint of Donald Vanore (“Complainant”) that was served by the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission” or “PUC”) on June 10, 2025. In support of this Preliminary Objection, PGW states as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

The Complaint fails to set forth any facts that could be construed as a violation of a Commission regulation, statute, or order by PGW, but instead posits a concern about a possible future harm. The Complaint also appears to be filed out of concern for the welfare of others rather than a harm the Complainant has suffered as a result of PGW action or inaction.

II. LEGAL STANDARD

1. The Commission’s Rules of Administrative Practice and Procedure permit parties to file preliminary objections.

2. The grounds for preliminary objections are limited to those set forth in 52 Pa.Code § 5.101(a) as follows:

- (1) Lack of Commission jurisdiction or improper service of the pleading initiating the proceeding.
- (2) Failure of a pleading to conform to this chapter or the inclusion of scandalous or impertinent matter.
- (3) Insufficient specificity of a pleading.
- (4) Legal insufficiency of a pleading.
- (5) Lack of capacity to sue, nonjoinder of a necessary party or misjoinder of a cause of action.
- (6) Pendency of a prior proceeding or agreement for alternative dispute resolution.

(7) Standing of a party to participate in the proceeding.

3. Commission preliminary objection practice is analogous to Pennsylvania civil practice regarding preliminary objections. *Equitable Small Transportation Intervenors v. Equitable Gas Company*, 1994 Pa. PUC LEXIS 69, Docket No. C-00935435 (July 18, 1994).

4. Preliminary objections in civil practice requesting dismissal of a pleading will be granted only where the right to relief is clearly warranted and free from doubt. *Interstate Traveler Services, Inc. v. Pa. Dept. of Environment Resources*, 406 A.2d 1020 (Pa. 1979); *Rivera v. Philadelphia Theological Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Inc.*, 595 A.2d 172 (Pa. Super. 1991). The Commission follows this standard. *Montague v. Philadelphia Electric Company*, 66 Pa. PUC 24 (1988).

5. The Commission may not rely upon the factual assertions of the moving party but must accept as true for purposes of disposing of the motion all well pleaded, material facts of the nonmoving party, as well as every inference from those facts. *County of Allegheny v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, 490 A. 2d 402 (Pa. 1985); *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Bell Telephone Co. of Pa.*, 551 A.2d 602 (Pa.Cmwlth. 1988).

6. The Commission must view the complaint in this case in the light most favorable to the complainant and should dismiss the complaint only if it appears that the complainant would not be entitled to relief under any circumstances as a matter of law. *Equitable Small Transportation Intervenors v. Equitable Gas Company*, 1994 Pa. PUC LEXIS 69, Docket No. C-00935435 (July 18, 1994).

7. The regulation at 52 Pa.Code § 5.21(d) authorizes the Commission to dismiss a complaint if a hearing is not necessary and authorizes preliminary objections to be filed in response to a complaint. This provision serves judicial economy by avoiding a hearing where no factual dispute exists. If no factual issue pertinent to the resolution of a case exists, a hearing is unnecessary. 66 Pa.C.S. § 703(a); *Lehigh Valley Power Committee v. Pa. Pub. Util. Comm'n*, 563 A.2d 548 (Pa.Cmwlth. 1989); *S.M.E. Bessemer Cement, Inc. v. Pa. Pub. Util. Comm'n*, 540 A.2d 1006 (Pa.Cmwlth. 1988).

III. PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS BY PGW

A. Dismissal Based on Legal Insufficiency of the Pleading

8. In paragraph 4 of the Complaint, “Reason for Complaint,” Complainant marked an “X”

next to “I am having a reliability, safety or quality problem with my utility service” as well as an “X” next to “Other.” In a letter attached to the complaint, clarifying his position, the Complainant fails to describe any issues with the gas service at the Service Address, but rather states that the area is a “trouble spot for gas leaks” and explains that he is acting out of concern for the welfare of others.

9. The Complainant makes no allegations against PGW and does not set forth any facts that could be construed as a violation of a Commission regulation, statute or order by PGW.

B. Dismissal Based on Lack of Standing

10. The Complaint may not litigate complaints on behalf of others as he is attempting to do in his Complaint.

IV. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, PGW respectfully requests that this Commission grant PGW’s Preliminary Objection, dismiss the Complaint, and grant any other relief to PGW that is deemed to be reasonable and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Graciela Christlieb

Graciela Christlieb, Esquire
Attorney I.D. 200760
Philadelphia Gas Works
800 W. Montgomery Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Telephone: (215) 684-6164
graciela.christlieb@pgworks.com

Date: June 30, 2025

Counsel for PGW