



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING  
400 NORTH STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17120

BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION  
&  
ENFORCEMENT

September 30, 2025

**Via Electronic Filing**

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement v.  
Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC  
Docket No. C-2024-3050319

**Joint Stipulation of Facts in Support of Settlement**

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Enclosed for electronic filing is the **Joint Stipulation of Facts in Support of Settlement** of the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (“I&E”) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and Peoples Natural Gas Co. LLC in the above-referenced matter.

On September 3, 2025, the presiding officer, Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey Watson, issued a Second Interim Order directing the Parties to supplement the evidentiary record. The Parties file the instant **Joint Stipulation of Facts in Support of Settlement** as Appendix D to the Joint Petition for Approval of Settlement that was filed on January 17, 2025.

Copies have been served on the parties of record in accordance with the Certificate of Service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colby B. Widdowson', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Colby B. Widdowson  
Prosecutor  
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement  
PA Attorney ID No. 326185  
(717) 787-2139  
[cwiddowson@pa.gov](mailto:cwiddowson@pa.gov)

CBW/ac  
Enclosures

cc: Per Certificate of Service  
Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey Watson (via email - [jeffwatson@pa.gov](mailto:jeffwatson@pa.gov))

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,	:	
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2024-3050319
	:	
Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC	:	

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**JOINT STIPULATION OF FACTS  
IN SUPPORT OF SETTLEMENT**

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Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.232(a), the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission’s (“Commission”) Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (“I&E”) and Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC (“Peoples” or “Company”), by their undersigned attorneys, agree and stipulate to the following facts for the sole purpose of supporting the approval of the Joint Petition for Approval of Settlement (“Settlement” or “Settlement Agreement”) in the above-captioned matter.

On March 28, 2025, the presiding officer, Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey Watson (“ALJ Watson”), issued an Interim Order directing the Parties to supplement the evidentiary record. However, the Parties were not served with the Interim Order. The Parties contacted ALJ Watson after becoming aware of the Interim Order on July 8, 2025. A Second Interim Order was ultimately served on the parties on September 3, 2025 and directed the Parties to file a proposed stipulation of fact on or before September 30, 2025. The Parties file the instant Joint Stipulation of Facts in Support of Settlement as Appendix D to the Joint Petition for Approval of Settlement that was filed on January 17, 2025.

I&E and Peoples have entered into the Settlement, which they recognize is a compromise of disputed claims. I&E also recognizes that the Settlement is entered into without any admission of wrongdoing or liability by Peoples. As stated in Paragraph 32 of the Settlement, had this matter been fully litigated rather than resolved through this Settlement, Peoples would have contended that it did not violate any provisions of the Public Utility Code, Commission regulations, and/or Code of Federal Regulations.

### **STIPULATION OF FACTS**

#### **A. Overview of Peoples**

1. Peoples is a “public utility” as that term is defined at 66 Pa.C.S. § 102,<sup>1</sup> as it is engaged in providing public utility service as a natural gas distribution company (“NGDC”) to the public for compensation. Peoples, in providing natural gas distribution service to the public for compensation, is subject to the power and authority of this Commission pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 501(c), which requires a public utility to comply with Commission regulations and orders, including Federal pipeline safety laws and regulations.

2. At the end of 2021, Peoples maintained a distribution system of approximately 13,054.2 miles of gas mains and 695,039 service lines<sup>2</sup> in Pennsylvania.

#### **B. The Distribution System**

3. Peoples provides natural gas service to the Borough of Tyrone, Pennsylvania.

4. Peoples owns and operates a 6-inch plastic gas main installed along Pennsylvania

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<sup>1</sup> “Public utility” is defined as:

(1) Any person or corporations now or hereafter owning or operating in this Commonwealth equipment or facilities for:

(i) Producing, generating, transmitting, distributing or furnishing natural or artificial gas, electricity, or steam for the production of light, heat, or power to or for the public for compensation.

66 Pa.C.S. § 102.

<sup>2</sup> Note that in 2021, Peoples was comprised of both Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC and Peoples Gas Company LLC. The totals for the end of 2021 reflect the combined total miles and services for both divisions. The companies were merged in 2023 and are now one legal entity.

Avenue, Tyrone, Pennsylvania. This gas main was installed in 1976 and operated at approximately seven ounces (twelve inches water column), with a maximum allowable operating pressure of 1 psig.

**C. The Incident**

**a. Background**

5. The Borough of Tyrone contracted with Glenn Johnston, Inc. (“GJI”) for the rebuilding and replacement of its aging water system infrastructure.

6. As part of the contract, GJI was to install new water mains and service connectors on Pennsylvania Avenue, between 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets.

**b. Date of Incident**

7. On July 26, 2021, GJI engaged in excavation activities in the 1300 block of Pennsylvania Avenue.

8. On July 26, 2021, GJI utilized a Roddie Pit Shot horizontal directional drill<sup>3</sup> to bore a hole for a new water line.

9. During its excavation activities, GJI’s employees operating the Roddie Pit Shot horizontal directional drill struck and bored through Peoples’ 6-inch main, creating a 2-inch hole entering the bottom half of the plastic main at approximately the seven to eight o’clock position and exiting at the four to five o’clock position.

10. On July 26, 2021 at 11:52 a.m., a foreman for GJI contacted Peoples Call Center to report an outside odor of gas. Peoples Call Center is responsible for receiving, identifying, and classifying all in bound calls, including emergencies, between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm.

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<sup>3</sup> A horizontal direction drill is a type of boring tool that creates a narrow hole in which small diameter pipes can be installed and is a basic form of trenchless technology using a pneumatic devise to push rods through the subsurface to create an underground path for the new installation.

11. During the call to Peoples Call Center, the GJI foreman reported the address of 1306 Pennsylvania Avenue, but did not indicate that he worked for GJI, that excavation and/or drilling activities were taking place, that anyone could have damaged Peoples' natural gas facilities or that his crew possibly struck a gas line. The GJI foreman only identified himself as a contractor who smelled gas outside beside an existing service near the shut off that goes to the house. The GJI foreman also did not indicate that he was, in fact, part of a GJI crew that was drilling a bore hole for a water line to an open lot adjacent to 1306 Pennsylvania Avenue (not a bore hole to the reported address). The Peoples Call Center representative read the caller the precautions pursuant to Peoples' policies and procedures.

12. The Peoples Call Center employee who spoke to the GJI foreman was not required by Peoples' procedures or any other law to ask if the caller/contractor could have damaged or struck a gas pipeline.

13. Peoples Call Center issued an emergency service order at 12:04 p.m. and contacted Peoples Operations Center, alerting the Operations Center to the emergency service order. The Operations Center is responsible for receiving, identifying, classifying, and dispatching employees for emergencies.

14. At 12:05 p.m., Peoples dispatched a field customer serviceman ("FCS") for an outside odor of gas to 1306 Pennsylvania Avenue.

15. Peoples FCS arrived at the scene at approximately 12:28 p.m.

16. Shortly after arrival, Peoples FCS called his supervisor ("Supervisor") to request the assistance of a Peoples' operations and maintenance crew ("O&M"). Subsequently, a Peoples' O&M crew was dispatched to the site.

17. At 12:50 p.m., Peoples FCS placed another phone call to his Supervisor to report

a serious incident involving suspected bore or missile damage to the Peoples' gas main line. Neither at this point nor at a later point in the FCS's interaction with GJI did GJI inform Peoples of any suspected bore or missile damage to the Peoples' gas line.

18. In sworn deposition testimony in other proceedings, Peoples FCS testified that, prior to the explosion, he informed the residents of 1306 Pennsylvania Avenue twice that they needed to evacuate the building.

19. Also sometime before the explosion, Peoples FCS entered the residence through the basement to determine if gas was present inside the structure.

20. At approximately 1:08 p.m., a natural gas explosion occurred at the residence located at 1306 Pennsylvania Avenue.

21. Prior to the explosion, because the Peoples FCS was unable to complete his investigation and Peoples O&M crew had not yet arrived on scene, Peoples was unable to shut off gas service to the area or the service lines to the residences in the immediate vicinity.

22. At the time of explosion, Peoples FCS was in the basement of 1306 Pennsylvania Avenue and sustained injuries.

23. At approximately 1:08 p.m., the explosion was reported to local emergency services.

24. The explosion resulted in one fatality, four injuries, complete destruction of one residence (1306 Pennsylvania Avenue), severe damage to a second residence (1308 Pennsylvania Avenue), and fire damage to a third residence (1310 Pennsylvania Avenue).

25. Peoples FCS was one of the injured and was transported to a nearby hospital for medical attention.

26. After the explosion, a four-block area around the incident site was evacuated.

27. Peoples' O&M crew arrived shortly after the explosion.

28. At approximately 3:18 p.m., Peoples squeezed off the main line low-pressure pipe near the intersection of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue and at the intersection of Cottage Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

29. Due to the intensity of the fire at 1306 and 1308 Pennsylvania Avenue, Peoples' crew could not turn off the curb valves for the service lines at 1306, 1308, or 1310 Pennsylvania Avenue following the explosion. Gas was shut off successfully at approximately 3:18 p.m.

30. At some time after the explosion, electric services were turned off in a four-block radius around the incident site.

31. Peoples brought in additional personnel to conduct walking and mobile leak surveys following the explosion.

32. At approximately 6:30 p.m. on the date of the incident, a representative of Peoples informed the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, Pipeline Safety Inspectors ("Pipeline Safety") who were on scene of Peoples' plan to excavate and repair suspected boring damage to 6-inch plastic main line near 1306 Pennsylvania Avenue.

33. Shortly after 8:00 p.m., Peoples excavated and exposed the damaged 6-inch main. A 2-inch hole was discovered entering the bottom half of the plastic main at approximately the seven to eight o'clock position and exiting at the four to five o'clock position.

34. Shortly after 10:00 p.m., Peoples completed the installation of a pretested pipe section and fittings to repair the damaged 6-inch main.

**c. Days following Incident**

35. By end of day on July 27, 2021, electric service had been restored to the area, except for the three residences damaged in the explosion and fire.

36. By end of day on July 29, 2021, gas service was restored to the area, with the exception of one customer, two customers that declined to have their gas turned back on, and the three residences damaged in the explosion and fire.

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,	:	
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2024-3050319
	:	
Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC	:	

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing **Joint Stipulation of Facts** upon the Parties, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a party).

**Service by Electronic Mail:**

Michael Turzai, Esq.  
Meagan Moore, Esq.  
375 North Shore Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
[michael.turzai@peoples-gas.com](mailto:michael.turzai@peoples-gas.com)  
[meagan.moore@peoples-gas.com](mailto:meagan.moore@peoples-gas.com)  
*Counsel for Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC*



Colby B. Widdowson  
Prosecutor  
PA Attorney ID 326185  
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement  
(717) 787-2139  
[cwiddowson@pa.gov](mailto:cwiddowson@pa.gov)

Date: September 30, 2025