

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC
Universal Service and Energy
Conservation Plan for 2019-2024**

**Public Meeting October 9, 2025
3052324-BCS
Docket Nos. M-2018-3003177,
M-2020-3021343, P-2024-3052324**

**Peoples Gas Company LLC
Universal Service and Energy
Conservation Plan for 2019-2024**

**Petition of Peoples Natural Gas Company
LLC – to Amend 2019-2023 Universal
Service and Energy Conservation Plan**

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) for consideration and disposition on the merits is the Petition for Reconsideration and/or Clarification filed by the Coalition for Affordable Utility Service and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA). CAUSE-PA seeks reconsideration of the Commission’s April 24, 2025 Order denying the December 11, 2024 Petition of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC (Peoples) to amend its current Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan (USECP).

As part of the settlement of its most recent rate case, Peoples agreed to file a Petition with the Commission seeking approval to automatically enroll LIHEAP recipients with significant balances into its Customer Assistance Program (CAP). As part of that settlement, Peoples also agreed to retain and amend language in its tariff to provide for this automatic enrollment.¹ The Commission approved the rate case settlement, and Peoples filed tariff supplements shortly thereafter.

Peoples then filed the Petition as required by the settlement. On April 24, 2025, the Commission entered an Order denying the Peoples Petition (April 2025 Order), finding that various elements of Peoples’ proposal were unreasonable, inadequate, and incomplete. However, our April 2025 Order did find that Peoples had met its obligation to submit such a petition under the terms of the settlement.

As previously stated, CAUSE-PA has asked the Commission to reconsider its April 2025 Order. CAUSE-PA has set forth five issues for reconsideration.

¹ Peoples’ previous tariff contained language referencing automatic CAP enrollment for payment troubled LIHEAP recipients. However, Peoples’ USECPs have not included an automatic CAP enrollment provision, since its 2006-2008 USECP.

I agree with the staff recommendation to deny reconsideration based on CAUSE-PA's arguments that (1) the Commission relied on unsupported assertions without due process, (2) the Commission misconstrued Peoples' proposal, and (3) the Commission violated due process in denying the uncontested Peoples Petition. I do not agree with the staff recommendation to grant reconsideration based on CAUSE-PA's argument that (4) the Commission proposed the use of Hardship Fund grants in place of CAP enrollment. As noted in the staff recommendation, the Peoples Petition was not denied based on this issue. Instead, this issue was raised in the April 2025 Order to highlight a gap in Peoples' proposal.

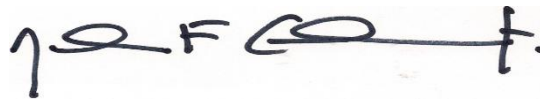
Finally, I agree with the staff recommendation to grant reconsideration based on CAUSE-PA's argument that (5) the Commission overlooked certain language in Peoples' tariff. CAUSE-PA is correct that Peoples' existing tariff language requires automatic enrollment of LIHEAP recipients with significant arrears into CAP. Our April 2025 Order failed to address this issue.

However, I disagree that the correct outcome is to direct Peoples to submit an amended Petition to Amend its USECP to align with its approved tariff. Rather, Peoples should be directed to file a tariff supplement seeking Commission approval to modify the language regarding automatic CAP enrollment in its tariff.

The implementation of Peoples' CAP automatic enrollment provision, as set forth in its current tariff, was contingent upon the Commission's review and approval of the Peoples Petition. Since the Commission denied the Peoples Petition and, in my view, reconsideration based on other issues is not warranted, Peoples cannot implement the CAP automatic enrollment provision. It then follows that the tariff language, allowing for such enrollment, should be subjected to further review. I remind Peoples that it retains the discretion to file, at any time, a tariff supplement seeking Commission approval to modify language in its tariff. Peoples' tariff should include only Commission-approved rates, rules, regulations, practices, and contracts.

I will be voting to concur, in part, and to dissent, in part.

DATE: October 9, 2025



JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.
COMMISSIONER