

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2024-3050319
	:	
Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC	:	

**INTERIM ORDER
APPROVING JOINT STIPULATION OF FACTS IN SUPPORT OF SETTLEMENT
AND CLOSING THE EVIDENTIARY RECORD**

On July 26, 2024, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (I&E or Complainant) filed a Formal Complaint with the Commission against Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC (Peoples or Respondent) at Docket No. C-2024-3050319.

As relief, I&E requested that the Commission: (1) find Peoples to be in violation of the Public Utility Code, Commission regulations, and/or Code of Federal Regulations for each of the twenty-two (22) counts set forth in I&E’s Complaint; (2) impose a cumulative civil penalty upon Peoples in the amount of in the amount of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00); (3) direct Peoples to perform each of the corrective actions detailed in the Complaint; and (4) order such other remedies as the Commission may deem appropriate.

On August 7, 2024, Peoples filed a letter request directed to the Commission Secretary requesting an extension of time to file an answer to the Formal Complaint, which was granted by Secretarial Letter issued on August 8, 2024.

On September 11, 2024, Peoples filed a second letter request directed to the Commission Secretary requesting an extension of time to file an answer to the Formal Complaint, which was granted by Secretarial Letter issued on September 12, 2024.

On October 11, 2024, Peoples filed a third letter request directed to the Commission Secretary requesting an extension of time to file an answer to the Formal Complaint, which was granted by Secretarial Letter issued on October 15, 2024. The October 15, 2024 Secretarial Letter extended the filing deadline to October 18, 2024.

On October 18, 2024, Peoples filed a letter with the Commission Secretary requesting an extension of time to file a Joint Petition for Settlement, advising that the Parties had reached a settlement in principle on all issues in this proceeding.

Subsequently, this case was assigned to the undersigned presiding officer.

On January 17, 2025, the Parties filed a Joint Petition For Approval Of Settlement (Joint Petition, Settlement Petition or Settlement). Attached to the Joint Petition was joint proposed conclusions of law marked as Appendix A, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement's Statement in Support of the Joint Petition For Approval of Settlement marked as Appendix B and Peoples Statement In Support Of Settlement marked as Appendix C.

Upon reviewing the record in this proceeding, a Formal Complaint was filed by I&E seeking various remedies, including a civil penalty to be assessed against Peoples. No Answer or responsive pleading was filed by Peoples to the Formal Complaint. In addition, the Joint Petition filed by the Parties provides that, although I&E filed a Formal Complaint, there has been no evidentiary hearing before any tribunal, and no sworn testimony has been taken in any proceeding related to this incident.¹ In addition, there was no response to the Formal Complaint and there is no stipulation of facts in this proceeding to establish an evidentiary record to properly consider the proposed Settlement.

¹ Joint Petition p. 14.

On March 28, 2025 an Interim Order was entered providing the Parties with an opportunity to file any appropriate and timely pleadings, file a proposed stipulation of fact to be entered into the evidentiary record, to file a modified settlement with proposed stipulated facts or to otherwise address the issues raised above, including the appropriateness and factual basis to consider a civil penalty and any other relief proposed in the Settlement. The Order also provided that, in the event that no additional filings are made by the Parties within 60 days of the date of the Order, on or before June 15, 2025, a status report shall be provided to the undersigned presiding officer by all parties to this proceeding.

Subsequently, the undersigned presiding officer was advised that the March 28, 2025, Order, which was filed with the Commission Secretary, was not properly served upon the Parties, through no fault of the Parties.

On September 3, 2025, an Interim Order was entered permitting the Parties to file any appropriate and timely pleadings, proposed stipulation of fact to be entered into the evidentiary record, or to file a modified settlement with proposed stipulated facts or to otherwise address the issues raised in this proceeding, on or before September 30, 2025.

On September 30, 2025, I&E and Peoples filed a Joint Stipulation of Facts in Support of Settlement.

Under the circumstances, the following Interim Order will be entered.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Joint Stipulation of the Bureau of Investigation And Enforcement of the Public Utility Commission and Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, filed by the Parties on September 30, 2025 is hereby approved and admitted into the evidentiary record in this proceeding to support the Joint Petition For Approval of Settlement in this proceeding.

2. That the evidentiary record at Docket Number C-2024-3050319 is closed.
3. That an Initial Decision will be filed in this proceeding.

Date: October 17, 2025

/s/
Jeffrey A. Watson
Administrative Law Judge

**INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT v. PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY
LLC**

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