

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Application of Peoples Natural Gas Company	:	A-2025-3056882
LLC, for All of the Authority and the Necessary	:	G-2025-3056883
Certificates of Public Convenience to Merge	:	
PNG Gathering, LLC into Peoples Natural Gas	:	
Company, LLC	:	

**INTERIM ORDER  
CONSOLIDATING AND TRANSFERRING MATTERS TO TUS**

On August 14, 2025, Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC (Peoples, Applicant, or the Company) filed an application for approval with the Commission seeking approval to merge PNG Gathering LLC (PNG Gathering) into People Natural Gas Company LLC (Application), as well as a related Affiliated Interest Agreement which is docketed at G-2025-3056883. In the Application, Peoples requests that the Commission grant certificates of public convenience pursuant to Sections 1102(a)(3) and 2210(a)(1) of the Public Utility Code necessary to authorize the merger. The Applicant also seeks all other approvals necessary under the Public Utility Code to carry out the proposed transaction in a lawful manner.

PNG Gathering is a non-utility entity that was formed when Peoples acquired Equitable Gas Company in the acquisition proceeding at Docket Nos. A-2013-2353647 *et al.*<sup>1</sup> PNG Gathering is the owner of the Goodwin/Tombaugh gathering system.

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<sup>1</sup> *Joint Application of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, Peoples TWP LLC, and Equitable Gas Company, LLC for All of the Authority and the Necessary Certificates of Public Convenience (1) to Transfer All of the Issued and Outstanding Limited Liability Company Membership Interest of Equitable Gas Company, LLC to PNG Companies LLC, (2) to Merge Equitable Gas Company, LLC with Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, (3) to Transfer Certain Storage and Transmission Assets of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC to Affiliates of EQT Corporation, (4) to Transfer Certain Assets between Equitable Gas Company, LLC and Affiliates of EQT Corporation, (5) for Approval of Certain Ownership Changes Associated with the Transaction, (6) for Approval of Certain Associated Gas Capacity and Supply Agreements, and (7) for Approval of Certain Changes in the Tariff of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, Docket Nos. A-2013-2353647, A-2013-2353649, A-2013-2353651 (Order entered Nov. 14, 2013) (Equitable Acquisition Proceeding).*

When Aqua America, Inc., now Essential Utilities, Inc. (Essential) acquired Peoples in 2020, Essential agreed to remediate the Goodwin/Tombaugh gathering system over a 7-year period.<sup>2</sup> Under the Essential Acquisition Settlement, the parties agreed that as the Goodwin/Tombaugh plant was replaced, the plant would be transferred to Peoples and regulated by the Commission as distribution pipeline. The merger of PNG Gathering into Peoples will allow Peoples to transfer the remaining used and useful Goodwin/Tombaugh plant from PNG Gathering to Peoples books and dissolve PNG Gathering as a separate corporate entity. Application ¶ 16. In the instant matter, Peoples is not proposing any rate changes and will address whether the plant should be included in rate base in the Company's next base rate proceeding. Application ¶ 38.

On August 15, 2025, the Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA) filed a Notice of Appearance, and on August 28, 2025, it filed a Notice of Intervention and Public Statement.

Notice of the Application was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on August 30, 2025. *See* 55 Pa.B. 6387. The Notice directed that all protests be filed by September 15, 2025.

On September 10, 2025, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a Notice of Appearance, Notice of Intervention, and Public Statement.

On September 29, 2025, the Commission issued an Initial Telephone Prehearing Conference Notice assigning this matter to me and scheduling a prehearing conference for October 7, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

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<sup>2</sup> *See Joint Application of Aqua America, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc., Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC and Peoples Gas Company LLC for All of the Authority and the Necessary Certificates of Public Convenience to Approve a Change in Control of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC and Peoples Gas Company LLC by Way of the Purchase of All of LDC Funding, LLC's Membership Interests by Aqua America, Inc.*, Docket Nos. A-2018-3006061, A-2018-3006062 and A-2018-3006063, Settlement ¶ 29 (Essential Acquisition Settlement). The Essential Acquisition Settlement was approved by Commission Order entered on January 24, 2020.

On October 1, 2025, I issued a Prehearing Conference Order directing, *inter alia*, the parties to file Prehearing Conference Memoranda on or before 12:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2025.

On October 3, 2025, the parties contacted me by email and advised that no party would be requesting evidentiary hearings. As such, the parties requested that the Application be transferred to the Bureau of Technical Utility Services. I responded to the parties by email that we would discuss the proposal at the prehearing conference.

On October 6, 2025, Applicant, OCA, and OSBA filed prehearing conference memoranda.

On October 7, 2025, the prehearing conference convened as scheduled. Applicant, OCA, and OSBA were present and represented by counsel. During the prehearing conference, with no objection from any party, I consolidated the Application with the matter docketed at G-2025-3056883. No party indicated there was any public interest in this matter such that the scheduling of public input hearings would be appropriate. No party was aware of any protests that had been filed or were expected to be filed. After discussion, OCA and OSBA agreed to withdraw their Interventions so the matter could be transferred to TUS.

On October 9, 2025, OCA filed a letter with the Commission withdrawing its Intervention. On October 10, 2025, OSBA filed a letter with the Commission withdrawing its Intervention.

As both Interventions have been withdrawn, and no protests have been filed, this matter is no longer contested and there are no issues requiring an evidentiary hearing. Therefore, it is appropriate that this matter be transferred to the Commission's Bureau of Technical Utility Services for disposition.

THEREFORE,



**A-2025-3056882 – APPLICATION OF PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY  
LLC FOR ALL OF THE AUTHORITY AND THE NECESSARY CERTIFICATES  
OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE TO MERGE PNG GATHERING LLC INTO  
PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY LLC**

ANTHONY D KANAGY ESQUIRE  
17 NORTH SECOND STREET 12TH FLOOR  
HARRISBURG PA 17101-1601

**717.612.6034**

**717.731.1985**

[akanagy@postschell.com](mailto:akanagy@postschell.com)

Served via eService – October 21, 2025

MEAGAN MOORE SENIOR ATTORNEY  
PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY LLC  
375 NORTH SHORE DRIVE  
PITTSBURGH PA 15212

**412.208.6527**

**814.490.4153**

[meagan.moore@peoples-gas.com](mailto:meagan.moore@peoples-gas.com)

Served via eService – October 21, 2025

STEVEN C GRAY ESQUIRE  
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE  
FORUM PLACE  
555 WALNUT STREET 1ST FLOOR  
HARRISBURG PA 17101

**717.783.2525**

**717.783.2831**

[sgray@pa.gov](mailto:sgray@pa.gov)

Served via Email – October 21, 2025

HARRISON WILLIAM BREITMAN ATTORNEY  
PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
555 WALNUT STREET 5TH FLOOR  
HARRISBURG PA 17101

**717.780.4536**

[hbreitman@paoca.org](mailto:hbreitman@paoca.org)

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