

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Armani Walker	:	
	:	
v.	:	F-2025-3057233
	:	
Philadelphia Gas Works	:	

INITIAL DECISION

Before
Eranda Vero
Administrative Law Judge

INTRODUCTION

This Initial Decision grants Armani Walker’s request to withdraw her Formal Complaint against Philadelphia Gas Works, as there was no objection to the request, and granting the request is in the public interest.

HISTORY OF THE PROCEEDING

On August 29, 2025, Armani Walker (Complainant or Ms. Walker) filed a Formal Complaint (Complaint) against Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW, Respondent or Company) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) alleging that the utility has shut off her gas service. As relief, she requested a payment arrangement and the reconnection of her gas service.

This Complaint is a timely appeal of the informal decision issued by the Commission's Bureau of Consumer Services at BCS Case No. 4086313. A timely BCS appeal is subject to *de novo* review. 52 Pa. Code § 56.173(a).

On September 24, 2025, the Respondent filed an Answer denying all material allegations of fact and conclusions of law in the Complaint.

An Initial Call-in Telephonic Hearing Notice dated September 30, 2025, notified the parties that an initial call-in telephone hearing was scheduled for November 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., and that the matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge Marta Guhl.

A Prehearing Order was issued on September 30, 2025. The Prehearing Order directed the parties to comply with various procedural requirements, reminded them of the time and date of the hearing and provided instructions for calling in to the hearing.

A Judge Change Notice issued on November 21, 2025, informed the parties that the case was assigned to me.

The hearing convened as scheduled on November 24, 2025. Ms. Walker appeared *pro se*. Graciela Christlieb, Esq., appeared representing the Respondent. During the hearing, Ms. Walker stated that she wished to withdraw her Complaint because she no longer resided at the service address and was no longer interested in the payment arrangement that she requested in the Formal Complaint. Tr. 4-6.

The Respondent did not object to Complainant's request to withdraw the present Complaint. Tr. 6.

The record closed upon receipt of the hearing transcript on December 30, 2025.

For the reasons set forth below, the Complainant's request to withdraw her Complaint is granted.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Complainant is Armani Walker.
2. The Respondent is Philadelphia Gas Works.
3. On August 29, 2025, Ms. Walker filed a Formal Complaint against PGW alleging that the utility has shut off her gas service.
4. As relief, Ms. Walker requested a payment arrangement and the reconnection of her gas service.
5. On September 24, 2025, the Respondent filed an Answer denying all material allegations of fact and conclusions of law in the Complaint.
6. An Initial Call-in Telephonic Hearing Notice dated September 30, 2025, notified the parties that an initial call-in telephone hearing was scheduled on November 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
7. A Prehearing Order dated December 30, 2024, directed the parties to comply with various procedural requirements, reminded them of the time and date of the hearing and provided instructions for calling in to the hearing.

8. The hearing convened as scheduled on November 24, 2025, with Ms. Walker appearing *pro se* and Graciela Christlieb, Esq. representing the Respondent.

9. At the hearing, Ms. Walker made an on-the-record request to withdraw her Complainant against PGW because she no longer resided at the service address and was no longer interested in the payment arrangement that she requested in the Formal Complaint. Tr. 4-6.

10. The Respondent did not object to Complainant's request to withdraw the present Complaint. Tr. 6.

DISCUSSION

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure at 52 Pa. Code § 5.94 permit parties to withdraw pleadings in a contested proceeding. The provision at 52 Pa. Code § 5.94(a) allows withdrawal of pleadings by filing, with the Commission and service to parties, a petition for leave to withdraw the pleading. The petition is granted only by permission of the presiding officer or the Commission. *Id.* The presiding officer or Commission must consider the petition, any objections thereto and the public interest in determining whether to permit withdrawal of the pleading. *Id.* Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 1.2, the Commission may, in order to secure the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of actions or proceedings, disregard an error or defect of procedure which does not affect the substantive rights of the parties. For purposes of this decision, the Complainant's on-the-record request to withdraw her Complaint against Philadelphia Gas Works will be treated as a Petition for Leave to Withdraw the Complaint. 52 Pa. Code § 1.2.

During the evidentiary hearing scheduled in this matter, Ms. Walker stated that she wished to withdraw her Complaint because she no longer resided at the service

address and was no longer interested in the payment arrangement that she requested in the Formal Complaint. Tr. 4-6. The Respondent did not object to Complainant's request to withdraw the present Complaint. Tr. 6.

The Commission has no interest in mandating that complainants continue litigation when they have indicated that they no longer wish to proceed with their complaint. In the present case, the Complainant is no longer a gas user or in need of the utility service provided by PGW. Further, the Complaint does not allege any facts that would impact the public interest. The Complaint does not contain any novel issues or issues of public interest. Thus, evaluating the Complainant's claims and preparing a decision at this time would not be in the public interest. Under these circumstances, granting the Complainant's request to withdraw her Complaint is in the public interest because doing so will eliminate the need for further litigation and save the parties any additional costs in time and money they would otherwise incur litigating the case. Accordingly, the Complainant's request to withdraw the present Complaint is granted.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over the parties to and subject matter of this proceeding. 66 Pa.C.S. § 701.
2. In order to secure the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of actions or proceedings, the Commission may disregard an error or defect of procedure which does not affect the substantive rights of the parties. 52 Pa. Code § 1.2.
3. The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure permit parties to withdraw pleadings in a contested proceeding by permission of the presiding officer or Commission. 52 Pa. Code § 5.94.

4. In determining whether to permit withdrawal of the pleading, the presiding officer or Commission must consider the petition, any objections thereto and the public interest. 52 Pa. Code § 5.94.

5. Granting the Complainant's withdrawal request is in the public interest.

ORDER

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Petition of Armani Walker for Leave to Withdraw her Formal Complaint filed at Docket No. F-2025-3057233 is granted.

2. That the Formal Complaint of Armani Walker against Philadelphia Gas Works filed on August 29, 2025, at Docket No. F-2025-3057233, is withdrawn.

3. That the Secretary's Bureau shall mark Docket No. F-2025-3057233 closed.

Date: February 17, 2026

/s/
Eranda Vero
Administrative Law Judge