

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120**

**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
v.
National Fuel Gas Distribution
Corporation**

**Public Meeting of February 19, 2026
3059428-TUS
Docket No. R-2025-3059428**

STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIR KIMBERLY BARROW

Before us for consideration is the proposed rate increase request by National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (NFG or Company). NFG proposes an increase of \$19.7 million (7.4%) in additional annual revenues to become effective March 29, 2026. The proposal will result in an increase in a residential customer's bill using 80 ccf per month from \$83.49 to \$88.44 (5.9%).

I vote to approve the suspension and investigation of this filing, pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. § 1308(d). However, I urge the parties to take a critical look at the Company's requested rate of return and return on equity (ROE) as well as the capital structure (common equity ratio and debt capital) to ensure reasonableness. Deviations in each of these items translate into millions of dollars charged to customers of all rate classes. Too often, the relationship between debt and ROE to cost of debt and capital is asserted as a general matter from basic economic principle alone. But, those relationships are not established empirically. That empirical relationship must periodically be re-established. Therefore, I believe a careful and detailed review of NFG's claimed capital structure and ROE is warranted.

February 19, 2026



Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair