

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	R-2025-3059428
Office of Consumer Advocate	:	C-2026-3060292
Office of Small Business Advocate	:	C-2026-3060354
CAUSE-PA	:	C-2026-3060437
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation	:	

**FIRST INTERIM ORDER**  
Conduct of Public Input Hearings

On January 28, 2026, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (NFGDC) filed Supplement No. 294 to Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 (Supplement No. 294) at Docket No. R-2025-3059428, with an effective date of March 29, 2026. NFGDC proposed to increase overall rates by approximately \$19.7 million per year, or 7.4%, over present revenues. NFGDC’s proposal, if approved, would increase the average residential customer’s bill using 80 ccf per month from \$83.49 to \$88.44, or by approximately 5.9%. NFGDC also proposed to reinstate a tariff rider that would provide a refund of Other-Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) funds of approximately \$6.2 million to all customers and provide a one-time bill credit of \$30, totaling approximately \$1.025 million, to confirmed Level 1 and Level 2 customers and Customer Assistance Program (CAP) customers.

Supplement No. 294 includes a request seeking approval of two alternative rate mechanisms: permanent approval of the Weather Normalization Adjustment and approval of the Energy Efficiency pilot program.

On February 19, 2026, the Commission suspended the implementation of Supplement No. 294 by operation of law, pursuant to 66 Pa.C.S. § 1308(d), until October 29, 2026, unless permitted by Commission Order to become effective at an earlier date, and

instituted an investigation into the lawfulness, justness, and reasonableness of the rates, rules, and regulations proposed in Supplement No. 294.

On February 19, 2026, the Office of Administrative Law Judge (OALJ) scheduled a prehearing conference to be conducted telephonically on February 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Also, on February 26, 2026, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ or presiding officer) issued the Prehearing Conference Order which provided procedural information for the prehearing conference.

On February 26, 2026, the presiding officer conducted a call-in telephonic prehearing conference with the following parties present and represented by counsel: National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (NFGDC), the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (BIE), the Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA), the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers Task Force (Providers Task Force) and the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA). The parties addressed various matters including the litigation schedule and identifying the location, method, dates and times for in-person and telephonic public input hearings.

On February 27, 2026, the presiding officer issued the Prehearing Order which memorialized discussions with the parties at the Prehearing Conference, including establishing the litigation schedule and the scheduling of public input hearings.

On March 11, 2026, the OALJ issued the In-Person Public Input Hearing Notice, which outlined the date, time and location for two (2) in-person public input hearings to be conducted by the presiding officer in Erie, Pennsylvania, at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on March 31, 2026. Also, on March 11, 2026, the OALJ scheduled telephonic public input hearings to be conducted at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on April 2, 2026.

AND NOW, because the public input hearings will be conducted by the presiding officer in-person and by telephone, and with the possibility of significant public interest, there is

a need to clarify with the active parties the process or conduct of the public input hearings and outline how objections will be handled.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. That the ALJ will open and close the public input hearing with instructions for the individuals present, including a short explanation of the Company's base rate case, the three options each potential witness has for speaking, the order in which witnesses will be called forward to testify, the role of the court reporter and the deadlines for when the ALJ, and then the Commission, will render decisions.

2. That each party present will be given an opportunity at the start of the public input hearing for one attorney to provide a short synopsis of the party's position, encourage testimony and/or indicate the presence of representatives to answer questions of the participants after the hearing. This opportunity will be provided at the start of each public input hearing before testimony is taken.

3. That, at the conclusion of each witness' direct testimony, each counsel – whether seated in the front of the room during the in-person proceeding, or appearing by telephone during the telephonic proceeding - will be asked if there are any questions on cross-examination. Parties will be asked in the following sequence: the Company; the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement; the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, CAUSE-PA, and Providers Task Force, followed by any remaining formal complainants or intervenors in the order indicated by the ALJ at the start of the proceeding.

4. That any objection an attorney deems necessary to make to testimony being provided by a witness at the public input hearing may be stated clearly on the record and should include the basis for the objection, after which the other parties will be given an opportunity to speak to the objection on the record.

5. That, an objection having been placed on the record, the inquiring party shall proceed with further cross-examination questions, if any. At the conclusion of the public input hearing, if the objecting party wants to request testimony be stricken from the hearing record, or any other appropriate request, the objecting party may file and serve written objections to the testimony of the witness, which written objections shall be provided to the presiding officer, for handling as appropriate.

6. That priority to address the individuals present may be provided to any Commissioner who might be present in addition to any member of the Legislature, at the start or conclusion of the public input hearing.

7. That the individuals wishing to testify will be asked to sign in or register prior to the start of the public input hearings. When calling individuals forward to testify, the presiding officer will give priority in the following manner: legislators (or staff from a legislator's office), customers of NFGDC and interested parties who will be impacted by the Commission's final decision in this proceeding.

8. Except for legislators, all witnesses will be asked to provide their name, address, if they are a customer of NFGDC and if they support or oppose the utility company's request, prior to the start of their testimony.

9. That in the event a large number of individuals wish to testify at a public input hearing, the presiding ALJ may elect to limit the time available for each witness, as well as limit the questions on cross-examination, to ensure all persons present who are interested in providing testimony will have the opportunity to have their input considered.

Dated: March 17, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Katrina L. Dunderdale  
Administrative Law Judge

**R-2025-3059428 - PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION v. NATIONAL FUEL GAS  
DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION**

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