



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

April 7, 2026

**E-FILED**

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Peoples Natural Gas Company, LLC /  
Docket No. R-2026-3060855**

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Enclosed please find the Complaint, Public Statement, and Verification on behalf of the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”), in the above-referenced proceeding.

Copies will be served on all known parties in this proceeding, as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Steven C. Gray*

Steven C. Gray  
Senior Attorney  
Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Attorney ID No. 77538

*Enclosures*

cc: Mark D. Ewen  
Joseph Kubas  
Parties of Record



consumers of utility services in matters before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”).

5. This Complaint is filed against the rates, terms, and other provisions of Original Tariff Gas – PA PUC No. 49 (“Retail Tariff No. 49”) and Original Tariff Gas – PA PUC No. S-5 (“Supplier Tariff No. S-5”), which were filed with the Commission on March 27, 2026, by Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC (“Peoples” or “Company”). The rates set forth in the Company’s March 27<sup>th</sup> filing, if approved by the Commission, would increase Peoples’ annual distribution revenues by approximately \$163.2 million, or by 13.8%.

6. Peoples’ March 27<sup>th</sup> Tariffs propose to increase the distribution rates paid by the Company’s small business customers by 15.7%, a larger percentage when compared to the overall system increase of 13.8%.

7. Peoples’ March 27<sup>th</sup> Tariffs propose to increase the Company’s rate of return on common equity by 25 basis points due to the “effectiveness” of the Company’s management.

8. After preliminary review of the materials filed by the Company in support of the proposed Tariffs, Complainant believes, and therefore avers, that those materials may be insufficient to justify the rate increase requested and that the Company’s present and proposed rates, rules, and conditions of service may be unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory, and otherwise contrary to law, particularly as they pertain to Peoples’ small business customers.

9. Complainant believes, and therefore avers, that Peoples’ proposed tariff changes, proposed rates, rate design, and revenue allocation are or may be unjust, unreasonable, and unlawfully discriminatory in violation of, *inter alia*, Sections 1301 and 1304 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §§1301 and 1304, and, furthermore, are contrary to appropriate public policy, sound ratemaking considerations, and may not be supported by the materials filed by Peoples.

10. In view of the foregoing, the Small Business Advocate respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission:

- A. Suspend and investigate the operation of Retail Tariff No. 49 and Supplier Tariff No. S-5;
- B. At the conclusion of such investigation, reject the proposed new rates and other tariff changes in Retail Tariff No. 49 and Supplier Tariff No. S-5 to the extent required to make certain that Peoples' rates are lawful, just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory against small business customers; and
- C. Grant such other relief as may be necessary or appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Steven C. Gray*

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Steven C. Gray  
Senior Attorney  
Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Attorney ID No. 77538

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Office of Small Business Advocate  
Forum Place  
555 Walnut Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dated: April 7, 2026

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

<b>Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission</b>	:	
	:	<b>Docket No. R-2026-3060855</b>
<b>v.</b>	:	
	:	
<b>Peoples Natural Gas Company, LLC</b>	:	

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**PUBLIC STATEMENT OF  
THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**

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The Small Business Advocate is authorized and directed to represent the interest of small business consumers of utility services in Pennsylvania under the provisions of the Small Business Advocate Act, Act 181 of 1988, 73 P.S. §§ 399.41 - 399.50 (“Act”). The Act further provides that the Small Business Advocate is to issue publicly a written statement stating concisely the specific interest of small business consumers to be protected by her initiation of or intervention in any proceeding involving those interests before the Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) or any other agency or court. This public statement relates to the filing today by the Small Business Advocate of a complaint against the proposed base rate tariff filings of Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC (“Peoples” or “Company”), which would increase the annual operating revenue of Peoples by approximately \$163.2 million per year.

The Small Business Advocate files this formal complaint against the Company’s proposed base rate tariff filings to protect the interests of the Peoples’ small business customers. A thorough inquiry by the Commission into all elements of the Company’s proposed tariff filings is necessary to ensure that the tariff filings are lawful, just, reasonable, and not discriminatory to Peoples’ small business customers.

In view of the foregoing, the Small Business Advocate will participate in proceedings before the Public Utility Commission to investigate the reasonableness of the proposed base rate tariff filings. The Small Business Advocate will ask the Commission to deny any proposed new rates and other tariff changes that apply to small business customers that are not proven by Peoples to be lawful, just, reasonable, and not discriminatory to the Company's small business customers.

Dated: April 7, 2026

**VERIFICATION**

I, NazAarah Sabree, hereby state that the facts set forth herein above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: 04/07/2026

*NazAarah Sabree*

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission** :  
: **Docket No. R-2026-3060855**  
v. :  
:  
**Peoples Natural Gas Company, LLC** :

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served via email (*unless otherwise noted below*) upon the following persons, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

The Honorable Charles E. Rainey, Jr.  
Chief Administrative Law Judge  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
[crainey@pa.gov](mailto:crainey@pa.gov)

Michael A. Podskoch, Jr., Esquire  
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement  
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Date: April 7, 2026

*/s/ Steven C. Gray*  
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Steven C. Gray  
Senior Attorney  
Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Attorney ID No. 77538