
 Pennsylvania Public |
 Utility Commission, | Docket No.:
 v. | R-2025-3059523
 UGI Utilities, Inc. - Gas |
 Division |
 |
 In-Person Public Input |
Hearing

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Wilkes Barre Township
 Fire Department
 Fire Hall 188
 152 Watson Street
 Wilkes Barre, PA

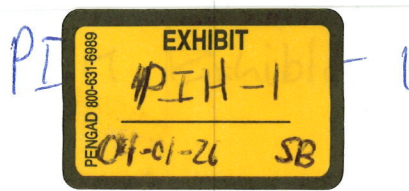
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
 Commencing at 6:00 p.m.

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Docket No. R-2025-3059523
 Hearing Date: April 1, 2026

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>FOR IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>IN EVIDENCE</u>
<u>PIH Exhibit:</u>		
PIH Exhibit 1	183	183

04/01/26 Nate Eachus
Statement



Testimony in Opposition to UGI Rate Increase: Nate Eachus (4/1/2026)

I respectfully oppose the proposed rate increase by UGI because it places an unfair and unsustainable burden on working families, seniors, and small businesses across our communities.

UGI is seeking approximately a **\$99 million annual increase, or over 8%**. While that may appear incremental on paper, for many households already struggling with inflation, housing costs, skyrocketing gasoline prices and other basic necessities, this increase is significant and harmful.

Public testimony already reflects this reality. Residents have described an 8% increase as “colossal” and unaffordable, especially for retirees and fixed-income households who are already making difficult choices just to get by. This is immediate and real.

At the same time, Pennsylvania is seeing rapid expansion of high-energy users, particularly data centers. These facilities require massive amounts of diesel/methane gas, electricity, infrastructure, and evidence shows that data center demand is driving up energy costs system-wide, including capacity prices and grid expansion costs. Without proper safeguards, those costs are shifted onto everyday ratepayers.

This raises a fundamental fairness issue:

- Why are residents being asked to pay more
- While large industrial users, including data centers, are increasing demand
- And driving the need for LNG and new infrastructure

Recent policy discussions in Pennsylvania recognize this imbalance and are moving toward requiring data centers to pay their own way, rather than passing costs onto households. That principle should apply here.

Utilities have an obligation to demonstrate that rate increases are just, reasonable, and necessary. That standard is not met when:

- Customers cannot afford basic utility service
- Costs may be tied to system expansion benefiting large users
- And no clear protections exist for residential ratepayers

Before any increase is approved, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission must ensure:

1. That low-income and fixed-income residents are protected
2. That large-load users like data centers are not subsidized by the public
3. That all gas infrastructure costs are fairly allocated
4. That affordability is treated as a primary, not secondary, consideration

At a time when families are already stretched thin, approving this rate increase without these protections would deepen economic hardship and erode public trust.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Commission to reject this rate increase.

That concludes my testimony for today.

-Nate Eachus

Concerned Luzerne County Resident