

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Nieves Abed	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2026-3060184
	:	
UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division	:	

FIRST INTERIM ORDER

Denial of Continuance Request
as Untimely

On January 30, 2026, Nieves Abed (Mr. Abed or Complainant) filed a Formal Complaint (Complaint) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) against UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division (UGI Gas or Respondent). Complainant alleged the utility had terminated natural gas distribution service. Complainant also alleged he was denied Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) benefits, and he wanted a payment arrangement. Complainant requested the Commission require UGI Gas to turn the natural gas service back on and to provide him with a payment arrangement he will abide by. In Paragraph 9 of the Complaint, Mr. Abed requested service of all documents by the Commission’s eService.

On February 23, 2026, UGI Gas filed an Answer in which UGI Gas generally denied the allegations. UGI Gas asserted it terminated natural gas service to the service address on June 16, 2025, consistent with the Public Utility Code, the Commission’s orders and regulations, and its own tariff, due to non-payment of arrears totaling \$2,115.76.

On February 26, 2026, the Commission’s Office of Administrative Law Judge (OALJ) issued a Call-In Telephone Hearing Notice scheduling this matter to be heard at an initial telephonic hearing on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. On February 27, 2026, the presiding officer issued a Prehearing Order which provided guidance to the parties about, *inter alia*, how to request a continuance.

On Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 3:40 p.m., Mr. Abed filed a Motion for Continuance (Motion). The Motion restated the reasons for filing the Complaint and provided greater detail than was provided within the Complaint itself. In addition, the Motion provided details about the consequences since service was terminated in June 2025, and indicated the Motion was a request for relief for the purpose of holding the parties accountable for damage suffered by Complainant. In conclusion, the Motion requested a thirty (30) day continuance for the purposes of discussing the matter with Complainant's attorney and gathering more evidence to provide to Respondent. The Motion did not indicate if Respondent had been contacted to ascertain whether the utility would agree or disagree with the request for a continuance.

On April 13, 2026, Respondent filed its Answer in Opposition to Nieves Abed's Motion for Continuance (Answer to Motion) and argued Mr. Abed did not provide sufficient good cause to have a continuance request granted. UGI Gas asserted it served its proposed exhibits on Complainant on April 8, 2026, in compliance with the Prehearing Order. UGI Gas argued Complainant's request in the Motion – to resume natural gas service – will be thwarted by a delay if the continuance is granted. UGI Gas noted Complainant wanted to confer with his attorney, but no attorney has been involved in this proceeding. Lastly, UGI Gas asserted Complainant alleged he wanted to provide additional evidence to UGI Gas, but Respondent noted Mr. Abed gave no indication what evidence was requested or required to be provided to UGI Gas.

Complainant has not served upon the presiding officer any proposed exhibits in anticipation of the initial hearing on April 15, 2026. The Commission's records indicate no attorney entered an appearance on behalf of Complainant.

Discussion

Pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§ 1.15, extensions of time may be granted by the presiding officer for good cause shown upon request by a party. Complainant filed the Complaint on January 30, 2026, and UGI Gas filed its answer on February 23, 2026. There was more than sufficient time for Mr. Abed to provide evidence to UGI Gas and/or to engage in discovery. There is no indication from the

Complaint or the Motion that Mr. Abed was attempting to provide documentation or evidence to either Respondent or the presiding officer.

Furthermore, Mr. Abed filed his Motion late in the afternoon on the Thursday before the Wednesday hearing. It is noted the day after the Motion was filed – April 10, 2026 – was the start of a religious holiday, and the Commission’s offices were closed on the afternoon of April 10, 2026. The Prehearing Order clearly requires parties to file all requests for continuance at least five business or working days prior to the hearing before the request will be considered as timely requested. Mr. Abed did not provide sufficient notice consisting of five working days or more before the scheduled hearing. In addition, Mr. Abed did not provide any reason for why he made an untimely request.

Therefore, the request for a continuance is unreasonable and fails to show sufficient cause exists, under the circumstances. The request will be denied. The initial hearing will proceed as scheduled on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

ORDER

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

That Complainant’s request for a continuance, dated April 9, 2026, is denied.

Date: April 14, 2026

Katrina L. Dunderdale
Administrative Law Judge

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