

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Kurt Knapp	:	
	:	
v.	:	F-2025-3058237
	:	
Philadelphia Gas Works	:	

INTERIM ORDER #2
CANCELLING THE EVIDENTIARY HEARING
AND CLOSING THE HEARING RECORD

On October 27, 2025, Kurt Knapp (Complainant) filed a Formal Complaint¹ (Complaint) against Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) concerning utility service provided to The Remembrance Trust. In ¶ 10 of the complaint form titled Legal Representation, no attorney is listed as representing The Remembrance Trust in this matter. Complainant identified himself as the trustee on The Remembrance Trust. Complaint ¶ 1.

On November 19, 2025, PGW filed an Answer with New Matter to the Complaint. In its Answer, PGW denied the material allegations in the Complaint. Answer ¶ 4.

In its New Matter, properly endorsed with a Notice to Plead, PGW asserted that to the extent that Mr. Knapp seeks an award of damages against PGW for his claim seeking reimbursement, in an unspecified amount, for damaged personal property, for pet supplies and for human and avian therapy sessions, such relief is beyond the power of the Commission to order. PGW concluded its Answer with New Matter by requesting dismissal of the Complaint.

¹ This Complaint is a timely appeal of the informal decision issued by the Commission's Bureau of Consumer Services at BCS Case No. 4084462. A timely BCS appeal is subject to *de novo* review. 52 Pa. Code § 56.173(a).

Complainant did not file an Answer to PGW's New Matter.

Also on November 19, 2025, PGW filed a Preliminary Objection to the Complaint, properly endorsed with a Notice to Plead. In its Preliminary Objection, PGW seeks dismissal of the Complaint's claims for damages, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.101(a)(1) and (a)(2), arguing that the Commission lacks authority to award monetary damages.

Complainant did not file an Answer to PGW's Preliminary Objection.

By Order dated January 20, 2026, I granted PGW Energy Company's Preliminary Objection filed in the above matter and the portions of the Formal Complaint seeking reimbursement for damaged personal property, for pet supplies and for human and avian therapy sessions were dismissed.

By Hearing Notice dated January 27, 2026, an Initial Call-In Telephonic Hearing was scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Of relevance, the Hearing Notice states the following:

REPRESENTATION. If you are an individual, you may represent yourself or you may have an attorney represent you. All others, including a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, must be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*. Only an attorney may represent someone else.

January 27, 2026, Hearing Notice.

On January 30, 2026, a Prehearing Order was issued to the parties, providing the parties with the procedural rules that would govern the hearing. Of relevance, the Prehearing Order states the following:

7. REPRESENTATION. If you are an individual, you may represent yourself or you may have an attorney represent you. All others, including a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, must be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*. And, unless you are an attorney, you may not represent someone else.

January 30, 2026, Prehearing Order.

Additionally, by email dated March 9, 2026, Mr. Knapp requested a continuance to seek legal representation. Complainant's March 9, 2026, email was sent to Counsel for Philadelphia Gas Works, who had no objection to the continuance request. Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 1.15(b), Complainant's Motion for a Continuance was granted.

On March 16, 2026, a Corrected Rescheduled Initial Telephonic Hearing Notice was issued and the hearing was rescheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

On March 31, 2026, the Commission issued my Order which directed Complainant to have an attorney enter his or her appearance on behalf of The Remembrance Trust on or before April 14, 2026.

The Commission's regulations provide that persons in adversarial proceedings be represented in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 1.22 (relating to appearance by attorneys and legal interns). *See* 52 Pa. Code § 1.21. (b). Additionally, the Commission's regulations define "person" as including individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, joint ventures, other business organizations, *trusts, trustees*, legal representatives, receivers, agencies, governmental agencies, municipalities, municipal corporations or other political subdivisions. (*emphasis added*) 52 Pa. Code § 8.

Complainant was informed of the representation requirements through Hearing Notice served January 27, 2026, Prehearing Order served January 30, 2026, Corrected Hearing Notice served March 16, 2026, and through my Interim Order #1, served March 31, 2026, directing Complainant to have counsel enter his or her appearance on behalf of The

Remembrance Trust on or before April 14, 2026. No attorney entered his or her appearance on behalf of The Remembrance Trust on or before April 14, 2026. Therefore, in the Ordering paragraphs below, the evidentiary hearing scheduled in this matter will be cancelled, and the record will be closed for the purposes of preparing an Initial Decision.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the evidentiary hearing, in the matter of Kurt Knapp v Philadelphia Gas Works at Docket No. F-2025-3058237, scheduled for May 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. is cancelled.
2. That the record in the matter of Kurt Knapp v Philadelphia Gas Works at Docket No. F-2025-3058237, is closed.
3. That an Initial Decision in the matter of Kurt Knapp v Philadelphia Gas Works at Docket No. F-2025-3058237 will be prepared and issued.

Date: April 21, 2026

_____/s/_____
Barbara Shadie Nause
Administrative Law Judge

F-2025-3058237 - KURT KNAPP v. PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS

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