

BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

In re:

DOCKET NO. 20250029-GU

Petition for rate increase by  
Peoples Gas & System, Inc.

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PROCEEDINGS: SERVICE HEARING

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING:

CHAIRMAN MIKE LA ROSA  
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM  
COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK  
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY  
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH

DATE: Thursday, July 17, 2025

TIME: Commenced: 2:00 p.m.  
Concluded: 2:15 p.m.

PLACE: Valencia Community College  
Health Science Building  
Room 105  
1800 South Kirkman Road  
Orlando, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK  
Court Reporter and  
Notary Public in and for  
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 J. JEFFREY WAHLEN, ESQUIRE, Ausley Law Firm,  
3 Post Office Box 391, Tallahassee, Florida 32302;  
4 appearing on behalf of Peoples Gas System, Inc. (PGS).

5 CHARLES REHWINKEL, DEPUTY PUBLIC COUNSEL,  
6 OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL, c/o The Florida Legislature,  
7 111 West Madison Street, Room 812, Tallahassee, FL  
8 32399-1400, appearing on behalf of the Citizens of the  
9 State of Florida (OPC).

10 JACOB IMIG and MAJOR THOMPSON, ESQUIRES, FPSC  
11 General Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard,  
12 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850, appearing on behalf of the  
13 Florida Public Service Commission (Staff).

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. Let's go ahead  
3 an get started, two minutes here after two o'clock,  
4 and I just wanted to give everyone that was  
5 traveling here a little extra time.

6 Again, today is July 17th. We are here at the  
7 beautiful Orlando at Valencia College at their  
8 great West Campus, a beautiful place to be, here  
9 for the Peoples Gas System Service Hearing. Let's  
10 go ahead and -- actually let me just go ahead and  
11 introduce myself and introduce the Commissioners.  
12 I just jumped right to it.

13 I am Mike La Rosa. Again, a privilege to be  
14 here with everybody. Of course, not a lot of  
15 customers in front of us, but I do know there are  
16 some folks that have joined us on-line. So, again,  
17 a pleasure to be here in front of you.

18 I will give my Commissioners just a short  
19 quick second to introduce themselves, starting to  
20 my left with Commissioner Clark.

21 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you, Chairman La  
22 Rosa.

23 It's a privilege to be here today. A very  
24 special thank you to Valencia College for hosting  
25 us on their beautiful campus, and we look forward

1 to receiving testimony that I assuming is go to be  
2 sent in, and those folks that have already made  
3 comments, we thank you for your support.

4 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Good afternoon.  
5 I am Gabriella Passidomo Smith. As Commissioner  
6 Clark alluded to, just because if you weren't able  
7 to be here today, feel free to submit written  
8 comments to us, and we will read those as if you  
9 were presenting testimony in front of us today.

10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: My name is Art Graham,  
12 and ditto what my two colleagues said.

13 COMMISSIONER FAY: Commissioner Fay, and the  
14 same thing. Appreciate the customers that decided  
15 to send testimony in at an earlier date.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you all, and I will  
18 jump in on exactly how to do that here in a few  
19 seconds.

20 Let's go ahead and get us officially kicked  
21 off. Staff, please read the notice.

22 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23 By notice issued in this docket, this time and  
24 place has been set for a Service Hearing in Docket  
25 No. 20250029-GU. The purpose of the hearing is set

1 out more fully in the notice.

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Let's go ahead and  
3 take appearances. We will start with Peoples Gas  
4 System.

5 MR. WAHLEN: After afternoon, Commissioners.  
6 I am Jeff Wahlen with the Ausley McMullen Law Firm  
7 appearing on behalf of Peoples Gas System, Inc.

8 MR. REHWINKEL: Good afternoon. Charles  
9 Rehwinkel, with the Office of Public Counsel here  
10 on behalf of the customers of Peoples Gas.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. THOMPSON: Major Thompson and Jacob Imig  
13 on behalf of Florida Public Service Commission  
14 staff.

15 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you, counsel.

16 And again, for those that are viewing this, if  
17 you want to send in written comments, you can go  
18 ahead and go to our website. That's the Florida  
19 Public Service Commission, and you can find a rate  
20 case overview, specifically you can email that to  
21 the Clerk of the PSC. Please go ahead and put the  
22 docket number, the docket number that was just  
23 given, but I will go ahead and give it again. It's  
24 20250029-GU. Again, 20250029-GU. And if you send  
25 that to the Clerk of the PSC, that will go ahead

1           and be put into the docket. Again, any comments  
2           that you would like to share with us today, maybe  
3           some more comments that you would have shared with  
4           us if you were here in person.

5           Let's go ahead and jump into the opening  
6           statements. I know a little bit unique, but let's  
7           start with the company.

8           MR. WAHLEN: Thank you, Commissioners.

9           On behalf of Peoples Gas, I would just like to  
10          thank the Commission and the staff and the college  
11          for putting this together. We always appreciate  
12          the opportunity for our customers to come and speak  
13          if they wish, and so thanks to everyone.

14          MR. REHWINKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just  
15          very briefly.

16          I just want to state for the record, and those  
17          listening, that the Public Counsel thanks the  
18          Public Service Commission for the entire Commission  
19          coming down to listen to testimony in this docket  
20          regardless of whether people showed up or not.

21          The Public Counsel's office is your attorney.  
22          We are set in statute. We are an office  
23          independent of the PSC, and we have -- we are your  
24          lawyers in this case. We have hired expert  
25          witnesses, and we will put our case on in the

1 technical hearing that was mentioned earlier. So  
2 thank you again, and thank you for the opportunity.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

4 So if you do have comments or would like to  
5 share with us, again, maybe go ahead and send that  
6 in to the Florida Public Service Commission through  
7 our website. Again, that gets dropped into the  
8 docket, and ultimately becomes testimony in which  
9 that we can review as Commissioners.

10 And as was referenced earlier, there is a  
11 hearing that will happen at a later point in time.  
12 At that point, we will go through witnesses, of  
13 course, go through testimony and any evidence  
14 that's presented before us. I certainly encourage  
15 you to look into the process, you know, view the  
16 case and follow along on-line. It will give you  
17 certainly a better opportunity and understanding  
18 how we deliberate and how we make decisions as the  
19 Florida Public Service Commission.

20 Again, not any customers here today, so no  
21 reason to continue to go through any disclosures  
22 that are necessary. Again, I want to thank  
23 everybody for coming and traveling. We did have an  
24 on-line hearing, I guess earlier this week. Now I  
25 don't remember when it was, if it was this week or

1           last week. It was recently. Of course, we did  
2           have participation there. Certainly, maybe an  
3           opportunity we will continue to look at as far as  
4           being able to reach out throughout the state of  
5           Florida. Of course, we are a large state, and we  
6           know there are customers in every corner.

7           I do want to say a special thanks, again to  
8           Valencia. I know Valencia has been referenced  
9           multiple times. Thank you for the opportunity to  
10          host this meeting. We travel around the state, and  
11          coordinating and finding a place that's, one,  
12          accessible, and, two, has all the abilities as far  
13          as cameras and audio systems and be able to  
14          broadcast can be very difficult, so thank you very  
15          much, Dr. Plinske, I appreciate you being here  
16          today, and for touring me earlier today.

17          I got an opportunity to see the Centers of  
18          Accelerated Skills, and see some of your training  
19          programs in which you offer there. I know that  
20          that's a big part of what we look at from a  
21          Commission perspective. Of course, we hear all  
22          these complicated issues that come at us from the  
23          company's perspective, or the utility's  
24          perspective, and many times it's the training that  
25          happens well, well, well beyond, you know, the time

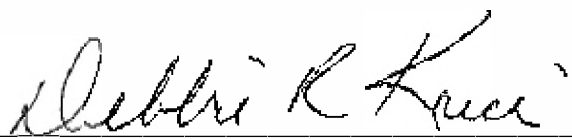


1           that things get to us that really matter as far as  
2           being able to offer reliable, safe electricity,  
3           water and wastewater here and gas, of course, here  
4           in the state of Florida. So thank you for what you  
5           are doing. Thank you for your program. I really  
6           appreciate the time today in touring me around, so  
7           thank you.

8           Commissioners, any further matters before us?  
9           All right. Seeing none, I will go ahead and call  
10          this meeting adjourned, and thank you guys very  
11          much. I appreciate it.

12                 (Proceedings concluded.)

## 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )  
3 COUNTY OF LEON )  
45 I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby  
6 certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the  
7 time and place herein stated.8 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I  
9 stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the  
10 same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;  
11 and that this transcript constitutes a true  
12 transcription of my notes of said proceedings.13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,  
14 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor  
15 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
16 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I  
17 financially interested in the action.18 DATED this 24th day of July, 2025.  
19  
20  
2122   
23 DEBRA R. KRICK  
24 NOTARY PUBLIC  
25 COMMISSION #HH575054  
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028