

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.

_____/

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: Wednesday, July 16, 2025

TIME: Commenced: 10:00 a.m.
Concluded: 10:20 a.m.

PLACE: Anne Kolb Nature Center
751 Sheridan Street
Hollywood, 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 MAJOR THOMPSON, ESQUIRE, FPSC General
11 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. I think we can
3 go ahead and get started at least officially kick
4 us off.

5 Good morning. Today is July 16th. We are
6 here at the Peoples Gas System Service Hearing down
7 here in beautiful Hollywood, Florida.

8 I am Mike La Rosa, the Chairman of the Florida
9 Public Service Commission. An honor, again, to be
10 here and to be with you today.

11 I will allow my Commissioners to just maybe
12 quickly introduce themselves, starting on my right.

13 COMMISSIONER CLARK: You caught me off guard,
14 I am sorry.

15 Gary Clark. I just want to say thank you to
16 those who are attending today. Those who may have
17 missed the opportunity to attend, but thank them
18 too, but I look forward to going through this
19 process through the next couple of days.

20 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Good morning.
21 I am Gabriella Passidomo Smith. Thank you for
22 anybody who is listening in, and I understand if
23 you don't, you know, it's hard to get here, so
24 please feel free to submit written comments to us.
25 That way you can do that at your leisure, we will

1 read them just as like you were here this morning.
2 I look forward to hearing from you.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: And my name is Art
5 Graham, also a Commissioner here.

6 COMMISSIONER FAY: Commissioner Andrew Fay. I
7 also want to reiterate that people can submit
8 on-line, submit comments on-line, email us comments
9 for the docket, and, you know, I just want to thank
10 our Chair for doing this. I know sometimes it's
11 difficult to know who will show up or when folks
12 will be able to make it, but I think giving folks
13 the opportunity at least to do so is important, so
14 thank you for that.

15 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Absolutely. And thank you,
16 Commissioners.

17 And for those of you that may be viewing
18 on-line, there is an on-line form that I will get
19 to a little bit later in the process in explaining
20 how that works.

21 There is a Spanish interpreter that is here if
22 someone was to have been here, of course, as you
23 are probably hearing our comments, we don't have
24 any customers physically here in the room, but I
25 know that there may be some folks that are on-line,

1 so certainly want to go through the process of
2 officially announcing the meeting. So let's go
3 ahead and start with staff, if you don't mind
4 please reading the notice.

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

6 By notice issued in this docket, this time and
7 place has been set for a Customer Service Hearing
8 in Docket No. 20250029-GU. The purpose of the
9 Service Hearing is set for the record more fully in
10 the notice.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Thank you.

13 Let's go ahead and take appearances, and we
14 will start with Peoples Gas.

15 MR. WAHLEN: Good morning. I am jeff Wahlen
16 of the Ausley McMullen Law Firm in Tallahassee on
17 behalf of Peoples Gas.

18 MR. REHWINKEL: Charles Rehwinkel, Deputy
19 Public Counsel, appearing on behalf of the
20 customers of Peoples Gas.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Major Thompson on behalf of
22 Florida Public Service Commission staff.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you, counsel.
24 And again, thank you all for coming down to
25 Hollywood.

1 In September, we will have a more technical
2 hearing where the Commission will hear from
3 witnesses about the evidence in the case. I
4 encourage you to watch us on-line and view the
5 process. It will give you a better understanding
6 of how our process works, and ultimately how we
7 wake make decisions and how we deliberate
8 throughout the case.

9 In addition to sharing your comments here
10 today, if you were here publicly, you could also
11 offer written comments. Of course, that's to
12 anyone that may be watching or, of course, a rate
13 paying customer.

14 Written comments can be submitted via email to
15 the Florida Public Service Commission. Please
16 include your name and the docket number, which I
17 can give you here very quickly. It's Docket No.
18 20250029, and send that to the Clerk at the Florida
19 Public Service Commission. Again, more information
20 is available on our website.

21 We will go ahead and start with opening
22 statements from the parties. Of course, normally
23 we offer three minutes, but please feel free to
24 take the time necessary in the circumstance, and
25 let's start with the company.

1 MR. WAHLEN: Good morning. Okay, thank you.

2 I am Jeff Wahlen again on behalf of Peoples
3 Gas. We just would like to thank everybody for
4 being here, and appreciate the effort the
5 Commission put in to setting this up and are
6 interested to hear what our customers have to say
7 about Peoples Gas service.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.
10 Office of Public Counsel.

11 MR. REHWINKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 Again, my name is Charles Rehwinkel. I have
13 been assigned by Walt Trierweiler, the Public
14 Counsel, to handle this case for the customers. I
15 just wanted to say that the Public Counsel's office
16 is a special agency established by the Florida
17 Legislature and overseen by an impartial committee
18 to represent the customers in rate cases before the
19 Public Service Commission and courts of the state
20 and the country.

21 I want to take time to thank the Public
22 Service Commission, the full Commission, for coming
23 down here to hear from the people regardless of
24 whether anyone shows up or not, and we appreciate
25 that you took that time to do that.

1 I want to say one thing, Mr. Chairman, in lieu
2 of my remarks that I have given in the past, is we
3 will represent the customers zealously in this
4 case. We have hired two expert witnesses to
5 provide testimony in that.

6 I want to correct something I stated at the
7 last of these, the virtual Public Service
8 Commission Service Hearing, is that I said that the
9 company had asked for the wrong -- an ROE, or a
10 profit of 11.3, and they asked for one of 11.1, so
11 I stand corrected and I apologize for the error.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All good. No worries.
14 Thank you very much.

15 So normally we would, of course, take
16 testimony in person. With no customers present
17 today, obviously, we will skip through that part,
18 and then we just go into additional matters.
19 Commissioners, I assume that there are no
20 additional matters that are before us today.

21 Seeing none, let's go ahead and call this
22 meeting adjourned. Thank you.

23 (Proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER


STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby
certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the
time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
and that this transcript constitutes a true
transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
financially interested in the action.

DATED this 24th day of July, 2025.


DEBRA R. KRICK
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #HH575054
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028