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PHILADELPHIA GAS COMMISSION
- - -
PGW'S PROPOSED FY 2026
CAPITAL BUDGET AND FORECAST

PUBLIC HEARING

- - -
February 18, 2025

- - -
Hybrid Meeting held on the
18th Floor - 1515 Arch Street
and Virtually via Teams

- - -
BEFORE: GEMELA N. McCLENDON, ESQ.
Executive Director

HEIDI L. WUSHINSKE, ESQ.
Hearing Examiner
ROSLYN BELL, ESQ.
Hearing Examiner

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VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS
MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION

1 APPEARANCES: (Via Teams)

2
3 ANDRE C. DASENT, ESQ.
4 BROOKE DARLINGTON, ESQ.
5 Counsel to Philadelphia Gas Works

6
7 COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.
8 BY: ROBERT W. BALLENGER, ESQ.
9 Counsel to Public Advocate

10 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGC:

11
12 ANNA M. CORRADO ROWE
13 Senior Analyst
14 TIMOTHY MURTHA
15 Financial Analyst/Internal Auditor

16 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGW: (Via Teams)

17
18 WILLIAM J. GALLAGHER
19 Vice President, Budget and Strategic
20 Development

21
22 DANIEL CASSIDY
23 Vice President, Technical Operations
24 JOSEPH R. HAWKINSON
Vice President, Field Operations

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ERICA S. PATTERSON, D.M.
Director, Contracts Management and
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SHAWN M. MURRAY
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Manager, Budget Reporting

1 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGW: (Via Teams - Continued)

2 CARITA COUNCIL

3 Senior Budget Analyst, Finance

4 DOUG BALMER

 Budget Analyst, Finance

5 REBECCA THAM

6 Supplier Diversity Program Specialist

7 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE: (Via Teams)

8 LAFAYETTE MORGAN

9 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC:

10 MITCH CHANIN

11 PETER FURCHT

1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Good morning,
2 everyone. Thank you for joining the
3 Philadelphia Gas Commission for its public
4 hearing in the matter of PGW's Fiscal Year
5 2026 Capital Budget.

6 Today we have three main areas that
7 will be under discussion: Facilities,
8 Contingency Funding, and Field Operations.

9 Before we get started, just as a
10 preliminary matter, we did circulate a copy
11 of the Exhibits List --

12 MR. DASENT: I lost your audio,
13 Gemela.

14 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Can you hear
15 me now?

16 MR. DASENT: Yes.

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

18 MR. BALLENGER: It's hard to hear.
19 The audio from the hearing room is not
20 coming through as strong as Andre's and
21 PGW's.

22 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. We did
23 circulate an Exhibits List with a listing of
24 all of the exhibits up until yesterday

1 evening.

2 PGW, can you confirm whether or not
3 that Exhibits List was accurate in your
4 opinion?

5 MR. DASENT: Yes. I just perused it,
6 but yes.

7 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

8 Mr. Ballenger?

9 MR. BALLENGER: Same: Yes, we think
10 it's accurate up to this point, yes.

11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Before
12 we get into the formal agenda, at this point
13 are there any other preliminary matters,
14 Mr. Dasent, that you need to raise before we
15 get into the matter at hand?

16 MR. DASENT: Yes. I think we can
17 survey areas where we have agreement and
18 that will really short-circuit the
19 discussion this morning. Rob and I talked
20 around 9 o'clock this morning and so I can
21 help with that.

22 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. If you
23 can go ahead with those then.

24 MR. DASENT: Okay. There's a number

1 of adjustments Mr. Morgan makes in his
2 testimony. One deals with Contingency
3 Funding in the amount of \$750,000.

4 PGW is in agreement to withdraw that
5 Contingency Funding; and I'll confirm that
6 with Mr. Gallagher, but if he states on the
7 record that's the agreement, that's what we
8 have.

9 In addition to that, we have
10 replacing carpets, all locations, \$50,000;
11 replacing modular furniture, all locations,
12 \$50,000.

13 PGW is agreeable to use Conditional
14 Funding authorization for those two budget
15 items, and I believe that's the agreement of
16 Mr. Ballenger. I wasn't taking notes this
17 morning, but I think that's right.

18 MR. BALLENGER: Yes, that's where we
19 are. Those would just be conditional line
20 items.

21 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. So just
22 to confirm, for the Contingency Funding --
23 and I guess, Mr. Gallagher, if you could
24 confirm, unless you need additional time

1 just to review for the final confirmation --
2 PGW is going to accept the recommended
3 adjustment made by the Public Advocate and
4 withdraw that funding.

5 MR. GALLAGHER: That is correct. We
6 can accept that adjustment for a total of
7 \$750,000.

8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. And
9 then with regard to Facilities, you are good
10 with Conditional Funding for those line
11 items?

12 MR. CASSIDY: Correct, yes.

13 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

14 Mr. Dasent?

15 Mr. Dasent?

16 MR. DASENT: If PGW will go on mute,
17 that will help.

18 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

19 MR. DASENT: PGW, go on mute, please.

20 MR. CASSIDY: That's us.

21 MS. COUNCIL: They want us to mute?

22 MR. CASSIDY: Yes.

23 MR. DASENT: Okay. So we have
24 agreements on the first two items,

1 Contingency Funding, \$750,000; and let me
2 lump together replace carpets and replace
3 modular furniture, Conditional Funding,
4 that's agreed.

5 Finally, we have PHMSA accelerated
6 cast iron main replacement, a \$3,724,000
7 adjustment; and I believe we've agreed, both
8 parties after discussions this morning, to
9 treat that as Conditional Funding subject to
10 notice when the grant is awarded.

11 Now, the logistics of that Bill can
12 explain because we apparently are
13 reimbursed. But when we get the grant
14 letter, we know we have the funding coming,
15 and that will be the notice we would provide
16 pursuant to Conditional Funding. If that's
17 the agreement, I think we're good to go.

18 MR. BALLENGER: Let me just chime in.
19 Yes, we are proposing to withdraw the
20 adjustment and the opposition to extend the
21 line item lifespan with respect to this
22 item, even though I think, you know, we
23 don't think it's necessarily on all fours
24 with the protocols, but since this has sort

1 of already gotten out of the gate and PGW is
2 working on these line items across multiple
3 budget years, we think for consistency sake
4 it's worth it to not sort of disturb the
5 pattern that's in place.

6 So this would basically put us in the
7 same position I think we were in in the 2024
8 Capital Budget when we really extensively
9 reviewed this and discussed it and
10 recommended Conditional. So we're moving
11 back to that comfortable position of
12 Conditional Funding.

13 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. And
14 that's just related to the accelerated cast
15 iron lifespan.

16 MR. DASENT: PHMSA accelerated cast
17 iron main replacement.

18 MR. BALLENGER: Yes.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

20 As always, we appreciate you both
21 working together to come to agreement on
22 these issues.

23 Based on that, it looks like the only
24 thing that is up for discussion is AMI

1 implementation.

2 You guys agree; correct?

3 MR. DASENT: That's correct.

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

5 MR. BALLENGER: That's the only item
6 in controversy. I wouldn't mind getting an
7 update as to the PHMSA funding line items
8 here today just for my own education.

9 That's the only item in controversy, is AMI.

10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. If we
11 can put a pin on the PHMSA issue until after
12 we get through this, that would be great.

13 I know that PGW has a hard stop at
14 12:00 and I actually have a hard stop at
15 12:00 myself; but based on these agreed-upon
16 adjustments, that's not going to be an
17 issue, I don't think.

18 So in that case, if Mr. Murray can
19 prepare himself, our court stenographer,
20 Ms. Migatz, will swear you in and then we
21 can begin with your overview of your
22 testimony, and then Mr. Ballenger can begin
23 his questioning.

24 - - -

1 (Whereupon, the witness, SHAWN M.
2 MURRAY, was sworn.)

3 - - -

4 THE COURT REPORTER: Please state
5 your full name and position for the record.

6 MR. MURRAY: Shawn Murray, Director,
7 Resource Management Technology.

8 THE COURT REPORTER: The witness has
9 been sworn.

10 MR. DASENT: Good morning,
11 Mr. Murray.

12 Mr. Morgan recommends that funding
13 for AMI should be delayed until a fully
14 developed plan has been prepared.

15 Do you agree with his recommendation?

16 MR. MURRAY: No, I do not.

17 MR. DASENT: Now, please give me
18 briefly the reasons you do not agree.

19 MR. MURRAY: So the AMI
20 implementation is primarily being driven by
21 safety concerns for PGW and the specific
22 reasoning around this stems back to an
23 incident that occurred in Merrymack Valley
24 in 2018.

1 MR. DASENT: Okay. We'll get into
2 that in our questioning this morning.

3 But, now, just as background, how
4 much are we asking for for AMI in this
5 fiscal year? Is it \$5,133,000, something
6 like that?

7 MR. MURRAY: That's correct.

8 MR. DASENT: And how much of the
9 budget request is for meters?

10 MR. MURRAY: 4.69 million.

11 MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, why is it
12 important that this budget item be approved
13 this year?

14 MR. MURRAY: So there's a couple
15 things: the safety concern that I
16 previously discussed, and so over the next
17 five years we currently have roughly
18 149,000 meters scheduled for replacement.

19 Of those 149,000 we have 21,000
20 scheduled for replacement in fiscal year
21 '26. When I say "replacement," these are
22 due to the current 20-year replacement
23 program that PGW currently has in place.

24 If we were to not move forward with

1 AMI, we would be replacing those meters with
2 traditional meters that would eventually
3 need to be replaced with AMI meters down the
4 road.

5 MR. DASENT: If you replace them with
6 traditional meters, does that mean somewhere
7 down the road they get replaced again at the
8 end of their useful life?

9 MR. MURRAY: That's correct, Andre.

10 MR. DASENT: Now, if AMI technology
11 is implemented, will all of those
12 traditional meters that you have purchased,
13 even in the near term, have to be replaced?

14 MR. MURRAY: That's correct, Andre.
15 That's the point.

16 MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, tell us
17 more. You mentioned the Merrimack Valley
18 before. Was there an incident out there?

19 My recollection is something happened
20 out in Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts,
21 where several buildings were destroyed in a
22 gas incident and it had to do with gas
23 pressurization on the system.

24 Do I have the gist of that?

1 MR. MURRAY: That's correct, Andre.

2 MR. DASENT: Do you have any more
3 background you can share with us as to what
4 happened there and some of the reasons if
5 you've researched it?

6 MR. MURRAY: Yes. So the cause of
7 that incident was a failure to reconnect
8 pressure-sensitive control lines to a newly
9 installed gas main. This caused the
10 low-pressure system to be pressurized to
11 high pressure and the low-pressure services
12 in that system were not equipped with
13 overpressurization protection devices.

14 So during that incident 131
15 properties across three towns were damaged
16 by fires and explosions, 50,000 people were
17 evacuated from their homes, there were a
18 total of 22 nonfatal injuries and one
19 fatality, and in total there were over
20 \$1 billion in damages.

21 MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, how does
22 that tie to AMI technology? Could that have
23 helped in this situation?

24 MR. MURRAY: Yes. So the AMI smart

1 meters that PGW is looking to install could
2 have prevented the vast majority of those
3 fires and explosions that occurred in
4 Merrimack Valley.

5 MR. DASENT: And why is that?

6 MR. MURRAY: So that is due to
7 several of the safety features. So one is
8 the integrated pressure sensors that are
9 capable of monitoring high or low pressure
10 based on parameters that would be set by our
11 technicians that can trigger alarms and
12 shut-offs, and this is ideal to prevent
13 incidents where there's no pressurization in
14 the system.

15 There's also several other features,
16 integrated temperature sensors, the meter
17 could automatically shut off during a fire,
18 and those are two of the main features that
19 could have prevented the incident in
20 Merrimack Valley.

21 MR. DASENT: Does this have anything
22 to do with the incident in Merrimack Valley
23 and the developments since 2018 of the AMI
24 project?

1 MR. MURRAY: That's correct, Andre.
2 So PGW started looking into AMI technology
3 shortly after the Merrymack Valley incident.

4 MR. DASENT: And that's not by
5 coincidence. That's by design to deal with
6 situations such as overpressurization on the
7 gas system.

8 MR. MURRAY: That's correct, Andre.

9 MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, can you
10 describe where we are with the AMI project
11 now? As I understand it, you have an AMI
12 consultant at this point.

13 MR. MURRAY: That's correct. So an
14 AMI consultant has been selected and,
15 coincidentally, the kick-off meeting is
16 actually today at 11 o'clock; and then we
17 have several workshops scheduled over the
18 next few weeks with the consultant to help
19 us develop the business case and all the
20 requirements.

21 We've also received estimates from
22 three AMI vendors that were used to develop
23 the fiscal year '26 budget and the
24 additional 11-page business case has been

1 developed internally by PGW, which we plan
2 to refine in conjunction with our AMI
3 consultant.

4 Just one note there: The AMI
5 consultant is a completely separate entity
6 from the AMI vendor.

7 MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, you shared
8 the AMI business plan through discovery.
9 Sort of going back and preparing for today,
10 I thought I saw the 11-page summary, and I'm
11 just trying to think, what do you need the
12 consultant for?

13 MR. MURRAY: So the consultant has
14 experience in AMI implementations with other
15 companies. They are the subject matter
16 experts in this area and they're going to
17 help PGW make sure that we get the most
18 value for our money and make sure that we
19 spend our money as prudently as possible and
20 get the best, like I said, value for this
21 implementation.

22 MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, if the AMI
23 project is delayed, what happens, you know,
24 with respect to the purchase of meters?

1 MR. MURRAY: So there's a few things
2 there. So PGW will certainly need to
3 purchase meters to continue the 20-year
4 meter replacement program and for new meter
5 installations.

6 If we were to purchase those
7 traditional meters, it would be
8 \$2.96 million in fiscal year '26 if we were
9 to continue to purchase those meters anyway.

10 And as I discussed earlier, Andre,
11 any traditional meters that we install will
12 need to be replaced by AMI smart meters in
13 the future.

14 MR. DASENT: I've lost audio.

15 MR. MURRAY: Can you hear me, Andre?

16 MR. DASENT: I missed, you know,
17 about a minute and a half, something like
18 that.

19 MR. MURRAY: So did you hear --

20 MR. DASENT: If Sue was okay, I'm
21 okay.

22 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm okay.

23 MR. DASENT: Just back up a minute.

24 MR. MURRAY: Andre, do you want me to

1 restate my answer to your last question?

2 MR. DASENT: Please.

3 MR. MURRAY: Yes. So if the AMI
4 project is delayed, PGW will need to
5 purchase meters to continue the current
6 20-year meter replacement program and for
7 new installations, and then would also need
8 to spend an estimated \$2.96 million on
9 traditional meter purchases in fiscal year
10 '26.

11 MR. DASENT: Will these traditional
12 meters have to be replaced with AMI meters
13 if you adopt or implement an AMI plan?
14 That's what I'm trying to get at.

15 MR. MURRAY: Yes, that's correct,
16 Andre. If we install traditional meters in
17 fiscal year '26, we will need to replace
18 those with AMI meters in the future.

19 MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, why do we
20 need to approve the AMI project this year,
21 just to sum up?

22 MR. MURRAY: So just a quick summary,
23 PGW has been evaluating AMI since 2018, as I
24 previously discussed, as a result of the

1 Merrymack Valley incident. The enhanced
2 safety and reliability features of AMI that
3 were outlined in that initial 11-page
4 business case that was submitted during
5 discovery, PGW has already received
6 estimates from three AMI vendors to help us
7 develop the fiscal year '26 budget and
8 ten-year conversion program costs.

9 And then, lastly, PGW has selected an
10 AMI consultant to help us refine the
11 business case and develop a comprehensive
12 AMI vendor RFP to ensure PGW receives the
13 best value for AMI implementation.

14 PGW is expected to have the AMI
15 vendor selected by the end of fiscal year
16 '25 so we can move forward with purchasing
17 AMI meters and implementation in fiscal year
18 '26.

19 MR. DASENT: Great. Thank you.
20 That's all we have.

21 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

22 Mr. Ballenger?

23 MR. BALLENGER: Sure. Yes, a few
24 things to unpack there.

1 I mean, obviously the Merrymack
2 Valley incident in Massachusetts was a
3 catastrophic failure, but it was also a
4 failure related to a pressure sensor from a
5 high-pressure main to a low-pressure
6 distribution network; isn't that correct?

7 MR. MURRAY: That's correct.

8 MR. BALLENGER: So it wasn't a
9 metering issue. It was an issue with a
10 sensor that was not put in place when new
11 low-pressure piping was being installed;
12 right?

13 MR. MURRAY: That's correct.

14 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. What is the
15 lifecycle of the AMI meters?

16 MR. MURRAY: That I'll have to get
17 back to you on.

18 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. May we take
19 that as a transcript request?

20 MR. MURRAY: Sure.

21 MR. BALLENGER: I don't know where we
22 are. Are we at TR-3?

23 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Yes.

24 MR. DASENT: I'm not remembering.

1 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: That's
2 correct, yes.

3 MR. DASENT: But we can designate
4 that as TR-3 for today. Gemela, I'm sure
5 Heidi can correct us.

6 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: That's
7 correct, Andre, TR-3.

8 MR. DASENT: Okay.

9 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you.
10 Who is the AMI consultant that PGW
11 selected?

12 MR. MURRAY: Let me just
13 double-check.

14 That is E Source.

15 MR. BALLENGER: E Source.

16 And you mentioned they are the
17 subject matter expert, but they are not the
18 vendor for the equipment or the
19 communications network; right?

20 MR. MURRAY: That's correct.

21 MR. BALLENGER: And so as far as sort
22 of updates go, I think Mr. Morgan's
23 testimony talks about and I think he's sort
24 of used the term "consultant" for the

1 vendor. I think what he's really focused on
2 is the implementation and the design and all
3 of the various components of this project
4 rather than just sort of the high-level
5 consultant that you've already retained.

6 Is that your understanding of his
7 testimony?

8 MR. MURRAY: Yes, that's correct.

9 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. So basically
10 as far as the updates from where we were
11 last time we talked about this and where we
12 are today, the basic takeaway that I hear
13 from you today is just that you're having
14 your kick-off meeting with E Source today
15 and that's sort of the beginning of that
16 conversation; right?

17 MR. MURRAY: That's correct.

18 MR. BALLENGER: For many years PGW
19 had a program of refurbishing its meters,
20 its residential meters, and putting them
21 back in the field once they were serviced.

22 Is PGW continuing to do that program
23 for the time being?

24 MR. MURRAY: We are.

1 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And so when
2 you estimated \$2.96 million for traditional
3 meters in 2026, can you break that down for
4 me between the two line items?

5 MR. MURRAY: I don't have that
6 information like at my disposal right now,
7 but I can certainly give it to you.

8 MR. BALLENGER: Yes, I'd appreciate
9 that. And I think because there's the
10 replacements and there's the additions, they
11 have sort of different priorities, but my
12 understanding is they're all the same
13 equipment functionally.

14 MR. MURRAY: That's correct. The
15 meters are exactly the same.

16 MR. BALLENGER: Okay, great. If we
17 could get a breakdown of the 2.96 between
18 the two meter line items, 50-30-1-01 and
19 50-30-2-01, that would be helpful. I'd ask
20 that that be TR-4.

21 MR. DASENT: Not a problem.

22 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. So just again
23 sort of going back to the issue of safety, I
24 mean, as you're here today, you're not

1 testifying that PGW's traditional meters are
2 unsafe; correct?

3 MR. MURRAY: No, I am not stating
4 that.

5 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. So what you
6 are looking for is the improved safety
7 features of the AMI network for the long
8 term; right?

9 MR. MURRAY: That's correct.

10 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. I think that's
11 really about all I have by way of updates.
12 I'd just ask maybe, Lafayette, do you have
13 any additional questions?

14 MR. MORGAN: I think I have one
15 question and this goes back to the document
16 prepared by the Field Ops on the AMI
17 walkthrough and my question is: With
18 respect to E Source coming on board, are
19 they likely to simply adopt what has been
20 decided as part of that working group or are
21 they going to come in with an independent
22 analysis with respect to what is needed and
23 what should be bought?

24 MR. MURRAY: Lafayette, that's the

1 plan. They would be helping us develop the
2 requirements and the business case. The
3 work that PGW has already done, that's the
4 work that we have done; but that's why we're
5 hiring a consultant, to help us define those
6 requirements for us.

7 MR. MORGAN: So I guess the bigger
8 question then is it is within the realm of
9 possibility that what has been established
10 so far could change. Just as an example,
11 the implementation software, that may
12 ultimately not be what is used.

13 MR. MURRAY: I think that it's
14 reasonable to state that what our
15 assumptions were already could change.

16 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Thank you.

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Is
18 there anything else? Does PGW want to do
19 any sort of redirect?

20 MR. DASENT: Yes, I have a couple of
21 questions for Shawn now.

22 I have to admit my ignorance, Shawn,
23 but why is Merrymack Valley important here
24 if we're a low-pressure system and their

1 situation might be somewhat different?

2 MR. MURRAY: So PGW is primarily a
3 low-pressure system, so 90% of our customers
4 operate on the low-pressure system. So that
5 incident is particularly relevant to PGW
6 because if something like that were to
7 occur, having these types of smart meters
8 could certainly have prevented the vast
9 majority of those fires and explosions that
10 occurred at Merrymack Valley.

11 So if that was to happen on our
12 system, this would certainly help us in that
13 type of situation.

14 MR. DASENT: Okay. And E Source, as
15 I understand it, will they help you refine
16 your business plan? Is that it? In other
17 words, building on what you've done and sort
18 of kicking the tires and making sure you've
19 done the right things, is that the idea, or
20 is it something different?

21 MR. MURRAY: No. That's correct,
22 Andre.

23 MR. DASENT: Okay. That's all we
24 have.

1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

2 Mr. Ballenger, any followup to that?

3 MR. BALLENGER: No. I appreciate
4 your testimony, Mr. Murray, and I think it
5 sounds like the consulting engagement is an
6 important feature of this project, so we'll
7 look for more information in the future.
8 Thank you.

9 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Thank
10 you all for that.

11 Officially not on the agenda but I
12 think it makes sense to do this at this
13 juncture, prior to opening the floor up to
14 members of the public if they wish to offer
15 comment and finalizing the Review Budget
16 Schedule agenda item, I would like to
17 acknowledge Dr. Erica Patterson, who is on
18 this call today.

19 While Commission Staff does not have
20 any questions for you regarding DBE reports,
21 I would like to congratulate you on your new
22 position with the Commonwealth of
23 Pennsylvania as the Deputy Secretary for
24 Diversity, Inclusivity, and Small Business

1 Opportunities.

2 You are going to be sorely missed.
3 We look forward to working more closely with
4 Rebecca, but you are going to be sorely
5 missed, especially since we were former
6 coworkers at the Housing Authority. It was
7 so good to reconnect with you on a
8 professional level again.

9 We all wish you the best of luck in
10 your future endeavors with the Commonwealth.
11 Thank you for your service to PGW, the City
12 of Philadelphia, and its ratepayers. We
13 appreciate you.

14 DR. PATTERSON: Thank you very much.
15 I truly appreciate it. I definitely will
16 miss everyone. The work must continue, so
17 I'm really excited to continue to do what I
18 love to do, as I possess here at PGW, by
19 taking it to the State level.

20 So thank you very much. It has been
21 a pleasure working with the PGC and always
22 my family at PGW.

23 MR. DASENT: Thank you, Dr. Erica.

24 EXEC. DIR. MCCLENDON: Thank you.

1 So if it's okay with PGW and the
2 Advocate, I'd like to open the floor to
3 members of the public.

4 Excuse me. There is a hearing taking
5 place in here right now. Thank you.

6 If it's okay with PGW and the Public
7 Advocate, I would like to open the floor to
8 members of the public if they would like to
9 say something.

10 I believe that you can raise your
11 hand if you're interested in speaking, so if
12 you would do that now.

13 Okay. Seeing only one, Mr. Furcht,
14 would you please introduce yourself for the
15 record. As is customary, you will have
16 three minutes in which to offer your
17 comments. I will let you know when your
18 three minutes begin.

19 We're in the middle of a public
20 hearing.

21 MAINTENANCE WORKER: Oh, I'm sorry.

22 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

23 I apologize for that.

24 Mr. Furcht, again, could you

1 introduce yourself for the record and I will
2 let you know when you may begin speaking.

3 MR. FURCHT: Yeah. Hi, Peter Furcht,
4 resident of Philadelphia.

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. You may
6 begin speaking now.

7 MR. FURCHT: Thank you. Actually, I
8 have a question and that's about what can I
9 comment about at this point? just on the
10 topics that have been discussed or other
11 things within the budget?

12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: This is a
13 hearing on the Capital Budget. You can
14 raise anything related to the Capital Budget
15 and the Capital Budget only.

16 MR. FURCHT: Okay. Thank you.

17 I just wanted to ask the question if
18 there is anything in the budget, because I
19 didn't see anything, related to a follow-on
20 to the geothermal study.

21 I assume some decisions have been
22 made about the geothermal study and was
23 expecting to see something about some
24 additional spending on further studies or

1 perhaps studying something else if the
2 geothermal investigation was not successful.

3 So if there's anything in the budget
4 for that, if somebody could point that out
5 to me. If not, I guess I'm questioning what
6 comes next with regard to that. That's my
7 only comment. Thank you.

8 MR. DASENT: Florian Teme gave us an
9 update concerning the geothermal project.

10 And, Bill Gallagher, please correct
11 me if I'm wrong.

12 But I thought there was discussion of
13 sort of reaching out to a couple entities
14 for purposes of a pilot project. And that's
15 where we are right now. We haven't come to
16 the conclusion of the feasibility analysis.

17 But, Bill, tell me if I'm wrong on
18 that.

19 MR. GALLAGHER: That is correct. We
20 are in the process of negotiating an RFP to
21 put out on the street on a geothermal
22 project. Right now, as far as the 2026
23 Capital Budget, there is no funding in there
24 for any project at this point in time.

1 MR. FURCHT: So that will be part of
2 the 2027 Budget perhaps?

3 MR. GALLAGHER: Yes, that is very
4 possible.

5 MR. DASENT: As soon as a decision is
6 made, then we will proceed. But we can keep
7 you in the loop. There are updates that are
8 given quarterly on that so, Mr. Furcht, you
9 will be able to sort of track where we are.
10 And I know I would like to be moving faster,
11 but we are trying to accurately state where
12 we are.

13 MR. FURCHT: Thank you.

14 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Thank
15 you very much.

16 With that, we are at the final item,
17 the Review Budget Schedule.

18 So Hearing Examiner Wushinske?

19 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: So next
20 on our schedule is the briefs, which are due
21 on March 4th. We'll be sending out a memo
22 similar to past years to give some
23 parameters for that, but that is what's
24 next.

1 The schedule remains as was
2 circulated unless anybody has any comments
3 or issues that they would like to discuss
4 now.

5 - - -

6 (No response.)

7 - - -

8 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Okay.
9 Hearing none, we look forward to reading
10 your briefs and comments on the 4th.

11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. And if
12 there is nothing else from anyone...

13 Mr. Ballenger?

14 MR. BALLENGER: Can we just determine
15 a due date for the TRs and the final TR that
16 we always do?

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: TRs are
18 typically due?

19 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Usually
20 about ten days, but with the briefing a
21 little tighter, PGW, how soon do you think
22 you could get those answered, TR-3 and TR-4?

23 MR. DASENT: Can we have until the
24 25th? Can we have until February 25th?

1 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Does
2 that work for you, Rob?

3 MR. BALLENGER: Yes, that should be
4 okay.

5 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Okay.
6 So we'll date those for the 25th and get
7 those out as soon as this hearing concludes.

8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

9 MR. BALLENGER: So it would be TR-3,
10 4, and 5 would be the summary of
11 adjustments.

12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Correct.

13 MR. DASENT: Yes.

14 MR. BALLENGER: Good.

15 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: And then I did
16 forget the earlier point that you had
17 raised, the update on PHMSA. Did you have a
18 specific question, Mr. Ballenger, or were
19 you just looking for --

20 MR. BALLENGER: I did, but you know
21 what? It's more for my own curiosity, I
22 think, than for the record at this point, so
23 we can do that offline perhaps, maybe with
24 Lafayette, Bill, Andre, and I, or something

1 like that. Since there's no adjustment and
2 nothing for further consideration, at least
3 from our perspective, I think we are in a
4 good spot.

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I appreciate
6 that, and that's fine. I only request that
7 Commission Staff be included in that
8 conversation. I think that we have an
9 interest in what's happening with that as
10 well.

11 MR. DASENT: Absolutely.

12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: So I
13 appreciate that.

14 If there is nothing else, I will
15 adjourn this public hearing. Thank you all
16 for your participation and your
17 understanding of the technical difficulties
18 earlier and have a good day.

19 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

20 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you.

21 - - -

22 (Whereupon the public hearing
23 adjourned at 10:41 a.m.)

24 - - -

Reported By: Susan Marie Migatz, RMR, CRR

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2 INDEX OF TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS
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TR-4	If we could get a breakdown of the 2.96 between the two meter line items, 50-30-1-01 and 50-30-2-01, that would be helpful.	24/20
TR-5	Provide summary of agreed-upon adjustments.	35/10

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