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PHILADELPHIA GAS COMMISSION
- - -
PGW'S FY 2027 CAPITAL BUDGET PROCEEDINGS
PUBLIC HEARING
- - -
February 19, 2026
10:00 a.m.

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

- - -
BEFORE: DOMINIC McGRAW
BILL RUBIN, Alternate
Commissioners

GEMELA N. McCLENDON, ESQ.
Executive Director
HEIDI L. WUSHINSKE, ESQ.
Hearing Examiner

ROSLYN BELL, ESQ.
Hearing Examiner

- - -
VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS
MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION

1 APPEARANCES:
2

3 TRAVIS M. KNIFFIN, ESQ.
4 Assistant City Solicitor
5 Counsel to Philadelphia Gas Commission

6 ANDRE C. DASENT, ESQ.
7 Counsel to Philadelphia Gas Works
8 COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.
9 BY: ROBERT W. BALLENGER, ESQ.
10 Counsel to Public Advocate

11 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGC:

12 ANNA M. CORRADO ROWE
13 Senior Analyst

14 TIMOTHY MURTHA
15 Financial Analyst/Internal Auditor
16 SANDRA FONTANEZ (Via Teams)
17 Administrative Assistant

18 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGW:

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

22 DANIEL CASSIDY
23 Vice President, Technical Operations
24 JOSEPH R. HAWKINSON (Via Teams)
Vice President, Field Operations

KELLY A. SCHREIBER (Via Teams)
Vice President, Operations, Resource Management
and Personnel

1 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGW: (Continued)

2
3 JOANNE KELLY
4 Vice President, IS Infrastructure and Service
5 Management

6 ROBERT HOAGLUND, ESQUIRE
7 Senior Attorney
8 ARTHUR S. HALL, P.E.
9 Director, Facilities and Engineering

10 RYAN REEVES
11 Director, Gas Control and Acquisition
12 SHAWN M. MURRAY (Via Teams)
13 Director, Resource Management and Technology

14 SEAN P. McNEELEY (Via Teams)
15 Director, Financial Planning
16 JOHN BYARS
17 Director, Procurement and Supplier Diversity

18 STEPHEN SCHUMMER (Via Teams)
19 Manager, Budget Reporting
20 SHANE MAYO (Via Teams)
21 Manager, Administrative Services

22 JAMES SAWKA (Via Teams)
23 Manager, Fleet Operations
24 ERIK WICKLEY-OLSEN, P.E.
Principal Engineer

SAMANTHA S. RIVERA (Via Teams)
Engineer III
BRIAN R. ECKROADE (Via Teams)
Supervisor, Maintenance

DOUG BALMER (Via Teams)
Budget Analyst, Finance

1 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGW: (Continued)

2

IMAN HILL (Via Teams)

3 Budget Analyst, Finance

4 VICTORIA E. BATTLES (Via Teams)

Executive Assistant

5

6 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE:

7

LAFAYETTE MORGAN

8

9 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA OFFICE
OF SUSTAINABILITY:

10

11 KATHERINE LEONETTI

12

PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC:

13

14 EMILY DAVIS

15 PATRICK HOUSTON

16 IVAN BOYKO

17 MILES OWEN

18 ERIC STOWERS

19 SARA BAIER

20 MITCH CHANIN

21 EMILY ABENDROTH

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1 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC: (Via Teams)
(Names are listed as they were identified on Teams)

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- ALANA
- ANDES, BRIANNA
- ANGELLY CARRION
- ANNA CASSIDY
- BOTTONE, PAUL DEVINE
- CAM
- CARA SATALINO
- CAROLYN KLEPSEK
- CHESTER GWAZDA
- CINDY SHEA
- EMILY GLICK
- EMILY ROMICK
- HILLARY BEDEIAN
- JUSTIN BALLING
- KAINTH, DEVNEET
- KAREN HARVEY
- KAREN MELTON
- KATE KRAUSS
- KELLI SILVA
- KRISSY A
- KYW
- KYW NEWSRADIO 103.9 FM

1 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC: (Via Teams - Cont'd)
(Names are listed as they were identified on Teams)

2
3 LINNEA BOND

4 MANDA P

5 MARIA

6 MATT

7 MAX

8 MEG LEMIEUR

9 mg

10 NAOMI

11 PAOLO BOWYER

12 RACHAEL

13 REBECCA

14 SANDRA VERA

15 SARA HAVEKOTTE

16 MARYKRIS K. THACHER

17 WOLK, CORYN

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1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Everyone
2 participating virtually, can you please make
3 sure that you are muted and remain muted
4 unless you are speaking.

5 For those who just entered the room,
6 if you wish to speak during today's hearing,
7 please sign in on the sheet.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me.
9 How do people who signed in online sign up
10 to speak?

11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: The Gas
12 Commission didn't operate an online sign-in.
13 Typically when we have public participation,
14 we just ask for individuals to raise their
15 hand and we call on you based on you raising
16 your hand during this session when it's time
17 for public participation. We're just doing
18 the sign-in sheet for here, those who are
19 here physically present.

20 Again, the Commission did not have a
21 sign-in sheet. If anybody else had a
22 sign-in sheet, that was independent of the
23 Gas Commission. We take anyone who wishes
24 to speak, regardless of them signing up

1 beforehand, we allow them to speak during
2 the proceedings.

3 Again, can you please make sure that
4 you are muted if you are participating
5 virtually.

6 Can you mute all? It's up at the
7 top.

8 MR. MURTHA: Yes. Everyone is muted.

9 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. We are
10 going to go ahead and get started.

11 Thank you all for coming. We are
12 convening the public hearing in regards to
13 the Philadelphia Gas Works Fiscal Year 2027
14 Capital Budget. Again, the Commission
15 thanks you all for being here and
16 participating in this proceeding.

17 Before we get underway, we are going
18 to have our court reporter, Susan Migatz,
19 swear in the individuals who will be
20 providing testimony on behalf of the Public
21 Advocate and on behalf of PGW.

22 THE COURT REPORTER: All those who
23 are going to testify, please stand up and
24 state your name and your title.

1 MR. GALLAGHER: William Gallagher,
2 Vice President of Budgeting and Strategic
3 Development.

4 MR. CASSIDY: Daniel Cassidy, Vice
5 President, Technical Operations.

6 MR. WICKLEY-OLSEN: Eric
7 Wickley-Olsen, principal engineer.

8 MR. MORGAN: Lafayette Morgan,
9 consultant on behalf of the Public Advocate.

10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Can you speak
11 in the mic.

12 MR. MORGAN: Yes.
13 Did you get it?

14 THE COURT REPORTER: I did.

15 - - -

16 (All above-identified witnesses were
17 sworn.)

18 - - -

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

20 To begin today's proceeding, it is
21 the Hearing Examiners' understanding that
22 there is a list of stipulations or budget
23 adjustments that are acceptable to PGW and
24 presumably the Public Advocate after some

1 discussion that they have had.

2 I will ask Mr. Dasent to begin going
3 over those.

4 Obviously, Mr. Ballenger, you can
5 weigh in for the Public Advocate's position
6 on those.

7 MR. DASENT: Thank you. Andre Dasent
8 for Philadelphia Gas Works.

9 We have a Summary of Budget
10 Adjustments Acceptable to PGW. We have
11 reviewed these at a high level with the
12 Public Advocate; but they can indicate,
13 after review and discussion today, if they
14 agree or on brief.

15 We just wanted to outline --

16 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Get just a
17 little closer.

18 MR. DASENT: We just wanted to
19 outline the areas of agreement.

20 The first has to do with vehicle
21 replacements. As you'll recall, we had
22 Fleet Operations' proposed vehicle
23 replacements for 20 sedans or SUVs.

24 And we proposed certain language that

1 will accommodate the concerns of the Public
2 Advocate and it has to do with getting
3 conditional approval of the expenditures
4 that are planned in the amount of \$646,000
5 and subject to our providing a report that
6 details, for operational and economic
7 reasons, why we were asking for the request
8 at this particular point in time; and that
9 would be a prerequisite for the release of
10 conditional funding.

11 The exact language is stated in a
12 document that I circulated, "Summary of
13 Budget Adjustments Acceptable to PGW," and
14 perhaps we can mark that as PGW Hearing
15 Exhibit 1.

16 - - -

17 (Whereupon PGW Hearing Exhibit 1 was
18 marked for identification.)

19 - - -

20 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: It is so
21 marked.

22 MR. DASENT: And we will refine the
23 language with the Public Advocate to see if
24 we can find agreement, not only in

1 substance, but in the exact wording of the
2 stipulation.

3 MR. BALLENGER: Good morning. Can
4 you hear me okay?

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Yes.

6 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you.

7 We are prepared to accept the
8 compromise position of conditional funding
9 with just the caveat that the amount to be
10 released is the amount sufficient to
11 purchase the 20 sedans or SUVs, whichever
12 ultimately proves to be the most
13 cost-effective for the ratepayers.

14 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: And based on
15 what you're saying, Mr. Dasent, you will
16 submit the proposed language, after
17 consultation with Mr. Ballenger you will be
18 submitting the proposed language, for how
19 that's going to look ultimately?

20 MR. DASENT: The final package; yes.
21 We have submitted a draft in PGW Hearing
22 Exhibit 1 --

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Right.

24 MR. DASENT: -- and I just wanted to

1 offer some leeway for Mr. Ballenger to
2 review and refine what we've submitted.

3 But I think in principle he's
4 indicating today that we're on the same
5 page.

6 MR. BALLENGER: That's correct.

7 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: No. Correct.
8 Just, you know, if you have any tweaks, we
9 just need to make sure that we have the
10 correct language so that it is actually
11 captured in the final order.

12 MR. DASENT: Okay. And I would
13 expect to have that for whatever the TR
14 response is in this proceeding.

15 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

16 MR. DASENT: The second item is for
17 Information Services, we have IP cameras,
18 and that's Project #47-01-1-05.

19 We had proposed a 36-month lifespan
20 in the budget and for purposes of addressing
21 the Public Advocate's concerns, we reduced
22 the lifespan to 24 months, the normal two
23 years. And so that's agreeable, that's
24 literally what Mr. Morgan requested.

1 MR. BALLENGER: Yes. Can't argue
2 with that one, except just to say that it's
3 presented under conditional on your
4 presentation, Andre. I don't think there's
5 anything conditional about it. It's just a
6 reduced lifespan; correct?

7 MR. DASENT: That's true.

8 MR. BALLENGER: So just another tweak
9 for our forthcoming transcript response.

10 MR. DASENT: Fair enough.

11 Another area for adjustment of
12 expense has to do with Information
13 Services - SAN Storage.

14 We requested \$354,000 in the budget
15 for this item. The Public Advocate
16 expressed concerns because we haven't spent
17 all of the monies that were budgeted
18 previously as yet.

19 We have agreed, PGW has agreed, to
20 withdraw planned spending for SAN storage in
21 the 2027 Capital Budget. It will appear,
22 though, in a subsequent budget, in 2028.
23 We're just trying to get the timing aligned
24 with the spending.

1 MR. BALLENGER: Again, the Public
2 Advocate can't disagree with that
3 adjustment.

4 MR. DASENT: Okay.

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

6 MR. DASENT: And finally, Expense
7 Reimbursement Management System, Project
8 #47-01-1-04, we're open to a compromise
9 here; but I have to talk internally with PGW
10 to work up the language for this particular
11 adjustment and we're, again, hoping to do a
12 compromise. I think we'll get there.

13 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Looking
14 at the list of stipulations that you
15 submitted, it said that you will address it
16 in your brief. Do you anticipate having
17 conversations with Mr. Ballenger regarding
18 it?

19 MR. DASENT: Yes.

20 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

21 MR. DASENT: And the TR response
22 would be ideal for that. So I'm hoping to
23 do it then so that Mr. Ballenger can respond
24 in the event we don't get to a full

1 agreement.

2 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

3 MR. DASENT: But we're almost there.

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

5 MR. DASENT: We'll leave it open for
6 the Commission to sort of sort it out.

7 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. That
8 sounds good. And as you know, then it can
9 be a part of the transcript request response
10 if you do reach some sort of agreement on
11 the language. If not, then it can be
12 addressed in the briefs, wherever any areas
13 of disagreement may remain.

14 So I think that that is everything
15 for the stipulations. We will go through
16 the formally numbered TR responses at the
17 end of this proceeding.

18 So then next on the agenda is the
19 discussion regarding PGW's proposed LNG
20 replacement project.

21 MR. DASENT: Yes.

22 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: So,
23 Mr. Dasant, you may proceed.

24 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

1 MR. BALLENGER: And obviously
2 Mr. Ballenger.

3 MR. DASENT: We just have a few
4 questions to start our conversation.

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: And please
6 make sure, I know you have to get kind of
7 close, but make sure you are speaking into
8 the microphone.

9 MR. DASENT: Okay. We have a few
10 questions for Mr. Cassidy.

11 The first one, Mr. Cassidy, is:
12 Mr. Morgan states in his testimony that PGW
13 has not provided sufficient evidence that
14 the existing LNG liquefier --

15 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Dasent,
16 I'm so sorry.

17 I know you formally introduced
18 yourself, but if you could just introduce
19 yourself again.

20 MR. CASSIDY: Yes. So my name is Dan
21 Cassidy. I am the Vice President of
22 Technical Operations at PGW and part of my
23 responsibilities in that role include the
24 LNG plants; in particular, the LNG plant at

1 Richmond which we are going to discuss the
2 project for today. Thank you.

3 MR. DASENT: My first question,
4 Mr. Cassidy, is: Mr. Morgan states in his
5 testimony that PGW has not provided
6 sufficient evidence that the existing LNG
7 liquefier is at the end of its useful life.

8 Do you agree with that?

9 MR. CASSIDY: No.

10 MR. DASENT: Can you explain?

11 MR. CASSIDY: Yes. So PGW and the
12 plant designer of the existing plant, Air
13 Products, operated the existing plant during
14 the years 2002, 2003, and 2004 in a testing
15 mode.

16 This plant was the first kind of its
17 type or type of plant for Air Products at
18 the time so they as a result had issues
19 reaching the guaranteed capacity. The
20 guaranteed capacity was supposed to be
21 20 million standard cubic feet per day.

22 So the plant was started and stopped
23 numerous times during these years by Air
24 Products to make adjustments and increase

1 output in the hopes of reaching the
2 guaranteed output.

3 It's likely that thermal cycling
4 occurred at a higher rate than during
5 subsequent normal operating years during
6 that time.

7 And construction of the plant was
8 basically completed in 2002, so by the time
9 the replacement liquefier that we're
10 proposing would be operational in 2030, the
11 existing expander plant will be about 28
12 years old.

13 Based on the extensive thermal
14 cycling of the coldbox, the assumption of a
15 25- to 30-year useful life is reasonable;
16 and PGW is trying to get a new plant
17 installed before the existing plant fails
18 rather than after, which would cause
19 significant challenges to PGW in procuring
20 the amount of LNG required for a design
21 winter.

22 The bottom line is that PGW needs to
23 get a new LNG liquefier installed now. PGW
24 would rather be two to three years early

1 constructing this plant rather than four
2 years late, which would be the case if the
3 existing plant should fail before we had the
4 funding to replace it.

5 I would also like to add at this time
6 that PGW arrives at this decision to replace
7 the LNG liquefaction plant with a background
8 in LNG facilities that includes many decades
9 of collective experience in engineering and
10 operations.

11 Additionally, many of PGW's
12 professionals have strong ties to external
13 LNG consultants and other industry
14 operations and engineering experts who have
15 shared learned best practices and insights
16 with PGW for many years.

17 MR. DASENT: Thank you, Mr. Cassidy.

18 Mr. Morgan also points out that
19 available data suggests that similar LNG
20 plants identified in the CH-IV report that
21 we proffered with the budget filing can have
22 a life expectancy exceeding 50 years.

23 Do you agree?

24 Now, let me ask it differently.

1 Are these LNG plants from an
2 operational standpoint, the ones cited in
3 the CH-IV report, comparable to PGW's LNG
4 liquefier?

5 MR. CASSIDY: These plants are
6 similar but not the same as PGW's. All are
7 lower-capacity plants than PGW's, which
8 ultimately became a 16 million standard
9 cubic feet per day plant. Seven of the
10 plants are well less than half of that
11 capacity.

12 We note this because these plants are
13 not limited in operation by distribution
14 system sendout like PGW's.

15 In addition, three of the ten plants
16 have been taken out of service that are
17 referenced.

18 So if we assume 40 to 50 years is a
19 normal life expectancy for a plant that is
20 similar to PGW's and PGW's plant has been
21 thermally cycled five times more than those
22 plants, we can also assume that the life
23 expectancy of PGW's plants should be less.

24 Again, 25 to 30 years is a reasonable

1 and conservative estimate of useful life.

2 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

3 Now, Mr. Morgan also indicates that
4 increased thermal cycling at the existing
5 LNG liquefier is a theoretical assumption.

6 Do you agree?

7 MR. CASSIDY: No, this is not a
8 theoretical assumption. It's based on
9 operating information, which is not limited
10 by sendout load like PGW's system has.

11 MR. DASENT: Mr. Morgan also
12 indicates that PGW's concerns regarding a
13 reduced lifespan for the coldbox at the
14 existing LNG plant are overstated.

15 Do you agree? And please explain.

16 MR. CASSIDY: I do not.

17 So the consulting firm that we worked
18 with has staff who are experts in LNG plant
19 design and operations with numerous industry
20 contacts as well, including LNG plant
21 operators.

22 So this is an assumption, but it's
23 not a theoretical assumption. It's based on
24 typical operations. And these operations,

1 again, are not limited by sendout load like
2 PGW's system is.

3 These plants typically start up
4 liquefaction in the spring to replenish LNG
5 storage, then restart again in the fall to
6 top off the LNG tanks, with allowance for
7 one additional startup in the summer.

8 This results in the statement that
9 PGW's operations are five times more than
10 standard or normal because PGW's plant has
11 experienced more than 15 thermal cycles each
12 year for the past several years.

13 This is the best information
14 available that the consultant could give us,
15 by the way, mainly because LNG plant
16 operators are not going to submit actual
17 operating data for a public report to a
18 consultant.

19 MR. DASENT: Now, Mr. Cassidy,
20 Mr. Morgan also indicates in his testimony
21 that PGW may not have fully considered
22 falling customer demand in its analysis as
23 to the need to replace the existing LNG
24 liquefier.

1 Do you agree?

2 MR. CASSIDY: No.

3 MR. DASENT: Please explain.

4 MR. CASSIDY: PGW included average
5 customer load in its analysis of design
6 winter needs and does include that. We also
7 include winter peak day demand, which is
8 more relevant and critical in the analysis
9 than average customer consumption.

10 In fact, all indications from this
11 winter inform PGW that a design day, which
12 for PGW is an average of 0 degrees, would
13 require PGW to supply approximately 200,000
14 dekatherms per day via LNG and vaporization.

15 And going back to this winter, using
16 this winter as an example, PGW vaporized
17 about 1.15 Bcf just between the dates of
18 January 19th and February 2nd. If this LNG
19 was not available, PGW would have had to
20 curtail or shut off firm gas customers.

21 And I'll also note that PGW
22 estimates, if we were able to get the gas
23 during that period without having had LNG,
24 if we were able to purchase pipeline gas,

1 that gas would have cost approximately
2 \$90 million just for that 15-day period
3 referenced.

4 I'll note that also because of
5 limited output of the existing expander
6 liquefier and the amount of LNG vaporized
7 this winter, which will happen by the end of
8 this winter, PGW will need to actually
9 purchase LNG, likely about 3/4 of a Bcf,
10 before next November to have sufficient
11 supply for next winter; and we estimate this
12 will cost PGW approximately \$10 million.

13 And regarding interruptible customers
14 and firm customers and how we plan for
15 design winter and LNG consumption, so the
16 demand of interruptible transport or IT
17 customers is not considered for LNG sizing
18 and design day winter calculations.

19 PGW's design day and design winter
20 calculations are based on firm customers
21 only and it is those firm customers,
22 Philadelphia homeowners, who depend on PGW
23 to heat their homes in the winter, who would
24 lose gas service if PGW loses the ability to

1 liquefy LNG and vaporize it on colder winter
2 days.

3 MR. DASENT: Thank you, Mr. Cassidy.

4 Mr. Morgan mentions that in addition
5 to design winter considerations, PGW uses
6 LNG to support potential system failure
7 scenarios, like the loss of a gas metering
8 station.

9 Do you agree with this?

10 MR. CASSIDY: Yes.

11 MR. DASENT: Can you explain?

12 MR. CASSIDY: So PGW plans for
13 various failure scenarios in addition to our
14 normal sendout requirements for the winter.
15 These additional various failure scenarios
16 include pipeline supplier curtailments,
17 metering and regulator station failures,
18 among others.

19 So when we review our winter
20 operation plans, all of these other
21 scenarios are reviewed and planned for. LNG
22 is a critical component for providing
23 vaporized gas should any of these other
24 events occur.

1 MR. DASENT: Mr. Morgan also
2 indicates that the Commission cannot fully
3 be informed as to the need to approve
4 capital dollars until a public-private
5 partnership negotiation is completed.

6 Please explain why PGW is pursuing
7 Capital Budget approval for the LNG project
8 in parallel with P3 negotiations.

9 MR. CASSIDY: Yes. So PGW has
10 determined that a new liquefier operational
11 by the year 2030 is the priority and must be
12 funded. To that end, PGW is recommending
13 that this funding is approved and that work
14 continues to meet that goal.

15 PGW informed the Commission of the P3
16 partnership to be transparent about that
17 possibility. It is possible that PGW and a
18 third-party partner execute an agreement
19 that provides PGW with the LNG required for
20 its needs for years to come. However, there
21 is certainly no guarantees at this point
22 that this will occur.

23 The new liquefier project and the 3P
24 partnership are independent efforts that

1 have similar outcomes for PGW and our
2 customers. PGW does not want to delay
3 either option as this could delay the
4 installation of a new liquefier beyond the
5 year 2030.

6 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

7 Now, concerning conditional funding,
8 Mr. Morgan indicates that the LNG project
9 should not be approved on a conditional
10 funding basis because the project's
11 necessity hasn't been adequately
12 substantiated in the record.

13 Do you agree?

14 MR. CASSIDY: I do not.

15 MR. DASENT: Can you explain?

16 MR. CASSIDY: Again, PGW needs to
17 initiate the project to have an operating
18 LNG liquefier in service by 2030. PGW is
19 concerned that a coldbox failure or other
20 outage at the plant will place gas customers
21 at risk and the timing of this request is
22 tied to that major consideration.

23 MR. DASENT: Now, I'm sure the
24 lawyers in the room will debate how

1 conditional funding might be negotiated and
2 the conditions that would apply.

3 PGW suggests that assuming
4 conditional funding is approved here, PGW
5 suggests the following conditions: If P3
6 negotiations have concluded with no deal,
7 then the funding that would be approved here
8 would be released.

9 Let me say that differently.

10 If conditional funding is approved,
11 PGW suggests that if P3 negotiations are
12 successful, that the money would be unneeded
13 and we would indicate that, communicate
14 that, to the Commission. If P3 negotiations
15 are unsuccessful, then the monies that have
16 been withheld would be released so this
17 project can proceed on schedule.

18 The concern that we have coming into
19 this discussion today is that we keep on
20 schedule with a 2030 guideline for a target
21 date for implementation of the LNG plant;
22 and with that in mind, we suggest that we
23 need immediate approval and to be flexible.
24 Given the fact that we have to reconcile two

1 proceedings, we've suggested that it could
2 be coordinated very easily with a
3 conditional funding request.

4 That's all we have.

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

6 Mr. Ballenger?

7 And before your witness begins to
8 speak, again, if you could just formally
9 introduce yourself.

10 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. Good morning
11 again. Robert Ballenger from CLS for the
12 Public Advocate.

13 I actually don't have any questions
14 for my witness. So if I could proceed to
15 cross, perhaps that would be most efficient.
16 But if Mr. Dasent has any questions for
17 Mr. Morgan, we can certainly field those
18 now.

19 MR. DASENT: I am certainly happy to
20 ask Mr. Morgan a few questions.

21 Mr. Morgan, having met you in a
22 number of proceedings now, we understand
23 your background is with respect to financial
24 analysis and ratemaking generally, and we

1 see you at PWD proceedings as well as PGW
2 budget proceedings. But that's the range of
3 your expertise; am I correct?

4 MR. MORGAN: With respect, the range
5 of my expertise is not limited to PWD or the
6 PGW proceedings.

7 MR. DASENT: Well, I can see that
8 from your resume. It's a very long resume
9 including many things.

10 MR. MORGAN: So in addition to
11 accounting and financial matters, I have
12 been exposed to numerous issues that go
13 beyond that. So I wouldn't necessarily
14 agree that my background is limited as you
15 have described it.

16 MR. DASENT: All right. But I also
17 wanted to sort of point out in a really
18 professional way that your expertise doesn't
19 extend to being an engineer and running
20 plants and operational concerns and the
21 like. It's within the range of ratemaking
22 and budgeting and the sorts of financial
23 analysis that are demonstrated in your
24 resume, which is extensive, and we respect

1 that.

2 MR. MORGAN: My resume speaks for
3 itself, but the issues that we're looking at
4 here are not purely engineering. What we
5 have done here is to take a look into the
6 decision to proceed with this plant and we
7 didn't get into design and that kind of
8 thing where you would say one would need an
9 engineering degree.

10 So the premise of your question I
11 would say I disagree with.

12 MR. DASENT: I understand. But our
13 bottom line is if I looked through your
14 resume, would I see an engineering degree in
15 your background?

16 MR. BALLENGER: I think we can
17 stipulate that Mr. Morgan has never run an
18 LNG plant, if that's sufficient for the
19 record.

20 MR. DASENT: That is sufficient.

21 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. Thank you.

22 MR. DASENT: That's all we have.

23 MR. BALLENGER: Okay.

24 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Excuse me.

1 Excuse me. Just as a reminder, if you are
2 participating virtually, please keep your
3 mics on mute unless and until you are going
4 to be speaking during the public portion of
5 the hearing.

6 Thank you.

7 Go ahead.

8 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you.

9 Mr. Cassidy, I have a couple of
10 followups from the testimony you just gave,
11 which was very nicely prepared, I can see
12 from the highlighting on your page there.

13 I just wanted to touch on some of the
14 data that you were relying upon, which I
15 believe was from the CH-IV study included in
16 the filing.

17 You said that the plants that were
18 compared with PGW's were not similar LNG
19 plants, and I believe you were referring
20 mainly to the size of the plants; is that
21 correct?

22 MR. CASSIDY: Okay. I said they were
23 similar but not the same.

24 MR. BALLENGER: Similar but not the

1 same in the sense that they were
2 predominantly smaller plants than PGW.

3 MR. CASSIDY: Smaller, correct.

4 MR. BALLENGER: And I just want to
5 make sure that you would agree -- and I am
6 going to reference PA-CB-50 -- that the size
7 of the liquefier is not known to affect
8 service life, as PGW's response to that
9 Interrogatory said.

10 MR. CASSIDY: That was our response,
11 correct.

12 MR. BALLENGER: Another point you
13 made was that the data the consultants
14 relied upon, I think you said it was an
15 assumption, but it was not based on
16 theoretical data.

17 And so what specific data was their
18 assumption based upon as to sort of the --
19 and maybe I can play on my assumption for
20 you.

21 My assumption for you is that it's
22 based upon the data from the other plants
23 that have worked with CH-IV and I think were
24 identified in a confidential response. Is

1 that correct?

2 MR. CASSIDY: Yes. So to clarify,
3 their operating assumptions were based on
4 conversations with the operators and
5 knowledge of how those operators in industry
6 generally operate their plants.

7 So in essence it's not theoretical;
8 it's based on discussions. But it's not
9 based on hard data numbers and such.

10 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. Thank you. I
11 just wanted to get that clear in my mind.

12 You also referred to and referenced
13 this winter, and rightfully so, it's been a
14 very cold winter; but I just would ask
15 whether you would agree that at least in the
16 last handful of years, by my recollection,
17 this is an outlier in terms of the kind of
18 winter weather we're experiencing. Would
19 you agree with that?

20 MR. CASSIDY: This is one of the
21 coldest winters we've had in a few years;
22 yes.

23 MR. BALLENGER: And you would agree
24 that the trend for firm demand still over

1 the long term has been a downward trend for
2 PGW's firm demand customers.

3 MR. CASSIDY: So the overall firm
4 demand of our customers has reduced over the
5 past several years as well.

6 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. So --

7 MR. CASSIDY: The average firm
8 demand, by the way; not peak.

9 MR. BALLENGER: Understood. Thank
10 you.

11 Could you briefly explain the major
12 differences between the plant that you're
13 proposing in this budget and your existing
14 expander plant?

15 MR. CASSIDY: Yes. So the expander
16 plant is operated with a power supply of the
17 pressure that comes in on the pipeline,
18 which powers the compression of the plant;
19 and therefore we have limited days of
20 operation because there is an approximately
21 5 or 6 to 1 ratio of what gas is liquified
22 versus what gas needs to be sent to the
23 City.

24 So we're limited because in shoulder

1 months and summer months PGW just does not
2 have the sendout required to operate that
3 plant.

4 The new plant would have a compressor
5 installed that would be able to operate
6 basically any day of the year outside of
7 maintenance activities and/or other
8 activities at the plant that would prevent
9 operation; like vaporization, for example.

10 MR. BALLENGER: And the proposal was
11 described as a closed-loop nitrogen cycle
12 plant. Am I correct that your current plant
13 is not a closed-loop nitrogen cycle plant?

14 MR. CASSIDY: Correct. This is an
15 open-loop expander plant.

16 MR. BALLENGER: So it actually uses
17 gas as the refrigerant for purposes of
18 liquefaction.

19 MR. CASSIDY: It uses gas for both
20 refrigerant and, more importantly, what
21 powers the compression phase of the plant.

22 MR. BALLENGER: So installing a
23 different type of plant would entail at
24 least some operational changes for PGW. You

1 referenced using the --

2 MR. CASSIDY: Correct.

3 MR. BALLENGER: -- compressor, for
4 example --

5 MR. CASSIDY: Yes.

6 MR. BALLENGER: -- to be able to
7 presumably use the closed loop during
8 different months of the year.

9 MR. CASSIDY: Correct.

10 MR. BALLENGER: We've talked a lot
11 about the 3P, and PGW stated that it would
12 know if that option is feasible in
13 September 2026.

14 Do you have any updates as we sit
15 here today?

16 MR. CASSIDY: We do not.

17 MR. BALLENGER: And I'm just curious
18 as to what the September date is based upon.
19 Is there some type of work that PGW's
20 potential partner needs to complete, like
21 site surveys or confirming access to
22 adequate capital, that we're waiting for
23 September to determine?

24 MR. DASENT: We're waiting for

1 September, if I might interject, because a
2 term sheet is expected at that particular
3 point in time.

4 Now, is it sort of a target that
5 we're aiming for? That's true. But it's
6 not based upon any specific criteria that
7 you mentioned this morning so much as the
8 negotiations themselves, which are fluid but
9 are moving forward.

10 MR. BALLENGER: Just for my own
11 personal experience, it's hard for me to
12 understand where sort of in the
13 January-February timeframe PGW can predict
14 negotiations concluding in September, so I'm
15 trying to find out if there is something
16 that has to happen before that point in
17 time.

18 And it sounds like you're saying, no,
19 it's just a matter of negotiations.

20 MR. DASENT: It's a matter of
21 negotiations; and we are reaching a term
22 sheet, we project, by the end of the fiscal
23 year.

24 MR. BALLENGER: So not to ask

1 Mr. Dasent to testify, but in the interest
2 of just getting the answers for now, if
3 there is a feasible 3P project and September
4 is the date for some event, do you expect at
5 that point that you would have fully
6 negotiated terms in September?

7 MR. DASENT: We would have a term
8 sheet which would be detailed and would
9 indicate, you know, where we are. We would
10 also be prepared to tell the Commission our
11 progress at intervals.

12 For example, similar to the term
13 sheet, where we are in August will be
14 reported to the Commission so they can see
15 where we're going and if, for example, we
16 are sort of left with conditional funding
17 authorization, whether we need to proceed
18 with the Capital Budget funding or some
19 other option.

20 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I'm sorry to
21 interrupt this. I just wanted to offer
22 apologies to those who are participating
23 virtually. It seems that the camera that is
24 facing the gentlemen who are speaking right

1 now has gone down. We are working to
2 resolve that.

3 I think that makes it even more
4 important that you guys speak into the mic
5 so that at least the virtual participants
6 can hear what's going on even if they can't
7 see your faces as you speak.

8 MR. BALLENGER: Well, it takes a
9 little bit of the pressure off, though.

10 So I appreciate that there's some
11 fluidity to the process, but I do also
12 appreciate sort of having some expectation
13 of keeping the Commission and the Public
14 Advocate, by extension, informed.

15 So I want to talk a little bit about
16 the RFP and I want to just clarify, I think
17 there's a couple of times in the record
18 where there is a misstatement that refers to
19 the RFP for LNG commercial opportunities and
20 asset optimization as being posted
21 June 21st, 2025; and I just want to make
22 sure that we're clear that the RFP was
23 posted June 21st, 2024.

24 MR. DASENT: It's 2024.

1 MR. BALLENGER: And so on the basis
2 of that date I just also wanted to make sure
3 that the timing is clear as to where we are.

4 The RFP was issued in June 2024 and
5 now we're expecting to reach a go or no-go
6 point a little more than two years later,
7 two years and a handful, three, four months
8 later, as the timing.

9 MR. DASENT: That's correct.

10 MR. BALLENGER: But also that at
11 least on the face of the RFP, PGW's
12 expectation was that it would select a
13 proposal by May 2025. And accept that
14 subject to check if you don't have the RFP
15 in front of you, but that's what it says.

16 MR. DASENT: Subject to check,
17 whatever it says.

18 MR. BALLENGER: Fair enough.

19 So as to some of the substance of the
20 RFP, I also wanted to be clear, because I
21 think as we've talked throughout this
22 process about the 3P reviewing the RFP, now
23 I have some sort of additional questions,
24 because Section 2.1.3.3 of the RFP states

1 that, and this is the quote: "With
2 production from, one, the new peak shaving
3 liquefier and, two, the existing expander
4 plant, PGW expects to have excess LNG that
5 will be made available for firm sales
6 contracts."

7 It goes on to say: "A separate
8 commercial liquefier could be constructed on
9 either site by a proposal."

10 And so my question is: Is PGW
11 anticipating having multiple liquefiers if
12 the 3P project goes forward?

13 MR. DASENT: If you know the answer,
14 Mr. Cassidy.

15 MR. CASSIDY: So we don't know that
16 detail yet is the simplest answer.

17 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And is there a
18 possibility that there would be a liquefier
19 at Passyunk as well as a liquefier at
20 Richmond?

21 MR. CASSIDY: So it's not something
22 that is the current expectation. It would
23 just be Richmond.

24 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And to be

1 clear, my understanding from our
2 conversations has been that essentially PGW
3 has to operate its expander plant while it
4 constructs the new closed-loop nitrogen
5 plant.

6 So eliminating that short-term period
7 of two or three years, you know, is there a
8 possibility that the Richmond Plant could be
9 the site of two newly constructed
10 liquefaction plants within the next five
11 years? Is that sort of within the realm of
12 possibility?

13 MR. CASSIDY: So just to clarify, are
14 you asking if PGW would build the plant
15 proposed as well as the third party building
16 a plant?

17 MR. BALLENGER: Yeah. I mean, just
18 the RFP created some confusion in my mind as
19 to whether the possibility of having two
20 liquefiers was either a two-site issue or a
21 single-site issue.

22 MR. CASSIDY: No. So the plan would
23 be either PGW builds the plant or the LNG
24 that PGW needs would be provided by the

1 third party. It's basically one or the
2 other.

3 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. That was my
4 assumption. I just wanted to make sure
5 because the RFP seemed a little bit broader
6 than that.

7 And you stated at our first ID
8 meeting -- this is on the transcript so
9 subject to check, of course -- "It is
10 anticipated that if an agreement is reached
11 with the third party and is more beneficial
12 to PGW's customers, PGW will eliminate the
13 need to finance the project with PGW funds."

14 Does that sound correct?

15 MR. CASSIDY: Yes.

16 MR. BALLENGER: And I believe that's
17 consistent with what Mr. Dasent said.

18 And then in response to PA-CB-53 you
19 clarified that PGW wants to begin
20 engineering work even if a 3P is successful;
21 right? I believe that's the answer. I can
22 go to that.

23 MR. CASSIDY: Yes. Without looking
24 at the response, PGW wants to continue

1 engineering work until the determination of
2 the 3P outcome occurs.

3 MR. BALLENGER: Right. Correct. It
4 says: "PGW believes it is prudent to
5 continue with the engineering work on the
6 LNG replacement project so the proposed
7 10 million standard cubic feet per day plant
8 can be constructed and operational as soon
9 as possible." That's the statement in the
10 response.

11 MR. CASSIDY: Yes.

12 MR. BALLENGER: And I guess what I'm
13 trying to understand is sort of the timing
14 risk because September, when you potentially
15 announce whether or not there's a 3P project
16 that's feasible, is also the first month of
17 PGW's fiscal year. So this creates the
18 possibility of some overlapping expenditure.
19 That's what I wanted to tease out with you.

20 And I guess my assumption is that PGW
21 would go forward with some engineering
22 while -- or maybe that's an unsafe
23 assumption.

24 Would PGW go forward with any

1 engineering work if the 3P terms are agreed
2 in September, after the start of the fiscal
3 year?

4 MR. CASSIDY: If we agree to terms
5 for the 3P, we would not go forward with
6 internal engineering work after that.

7 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. That's
8 helpful.

9 And I'm assuming that one reason for
10 that is that the partner might want a
11 different size plant. Is that a fair
12 assumption?

13 MR. CASSIDY: It's a possibility.

14 MR. BALLENGER: They might have other
15 needs or configurations in mind as well. Is
16 that a possibility?

17 MR. CASSIDY: Yes.

18 MR. BALLENGER: I want to talk a
19 little bit about the design winter and plant
20 capacity. I got a little tripped up in the
21 math and that's always unsafe for lawyers to
22 do math so...

23 So we're talking about a plant that
24 could produce -- and this is PGW's proposed

1 budget plant -- the 10 million standard
2 cubic feet per day, and you say that could
3 produce 3.3 Bcf of LNG annually; is that
4 right?

5 MR. CASSIDY: Correct.

6 MR. BALLENGER: And I think you go on
7 to say that that assumes liquefaction occurs
8 300 days of the year.

9 MR. CASSIDY: I believe it's 330.

10 MR. BALLENGER: That's where my math
11 came in, yeah, okay, because I came up with
12 3 Bcf. Okay, so it's 330 days. That's
13 helpful. Okay.

14 And the current liquefier, I think
15 you say the maximum it can produce is 2.2
16 Bcf per year under the current tail gas
17 limitations?

18 MR. CASSIDY: Correct.

19 MR. BALLENGER: And those
20 limitations, of course, would not apply with
21 the turnkey solution that you're proposing
22 in this budget. You wouldn't have tail gas
23 limitations.

24 MR. CASSIDY: Right, they would not.

1 MR. BALLENGER: I think you said that
2 earlier. I just wanted to reiterate that.

3 So the CH-IV lifecycle assessment
4 report, it indicates PGW's design winter LNG
5 need is 3.2 Bcf. Does that sound correct?

6 MR. CASSIDY: Correct.

7 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And CH-IV,
8 they didn't do a study of PGW's design
9 winter, did they?

10 MR. CASSIDY: No.

11 MR. BALLENGER: They got that
12 information from PGW.

13 MR. CASSIDY: They did not.

14 MR. BALLENGER: But that did come
15 from PGW.

16 MR. CASSIDY: Correct.

17 MR. BALLENGER: Is there any part of
18 the CH-IV report that PGW disagrees with?

19 MR. CASSIDY: No, I can't think of
20 anything.

21 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And another,
22 this may be because we've gone back and
23 forth with some of these types of reports in
24 the past, I just want to check, your

1 response to PA-CB-5 includes a statement:
2 "According to Chart Industries a lifespan
3 greater than 20 years is reasonable."

4 I believe there was a Chart
5 Industries report a few years back. Is that
6 what you're referring to?

7 MR. CASSIDY: That is the report,
8 yes.

9 MR. BALLENGER: Because the first
10 time I read over that, I saw CH and I just
11 went straight to CH-IV, so that's my
12 confusion. I appreciate your response.

13 MR. CASSIDY: It's a bit confusing.

14 MR. BALLENGER: So in the actual
15 budget filing -- and I'm going to be on
16 Pages 13 and 14 of the pdf, and they may
17 have multiple numbers at the bottom, which
18 is a little confusing, but the bottom of my
19 page has 11 and then 13 on the bottom, and
20 that's what I'm referring to as Page 13.

21 MR. DASENT: Give me a minute to get
22 there.

23 MR. BALLENGER: Sure.

24 This has to do with upgrading the

1 trucking facilities to accommodate
2 additional LNG.

3 MR. CASSIDY: It's on Page 11/13?

4 MR. BALLENGER: Correct.

5 MR. CASSIDY: Okay.

6 Okay, I see it.

7 MR. BALLENGER: And it carries over
8 to 12/14.

9 MR. CASSIDY: Yes.

10 MR. BALLENGER: I just wanted to --
11 again, lawyers, math, lots of numbers being
12 thrown around here -- I just wanted to make
13 sure that I understood, in this analysis
14 you're using design winter conditions for
15 purposes of determining potential costs; is
16 that accurate?

17 MR. CASSIDY: Correct. When we say
18 "3.2 Bcf," that would be design winter.

19 MR. BALLENGER: Right. So --

20 MR. CASSIDY: Design year, actually
21 design year requirements for LNG based on a
22 design winter.

23 MR. BALLENGER: Right. And so as you
24 cost out the potential trucking costs at a

1 design year basis to come up with these
2 numbers, you're assuming 30 design years in
3 a row basically.

4 MR. CASSIDY: So the \$30 million
5 estimate for the construction of the
6 trucking that we referenced; is that what
7 you're talking about?

8 MR. BALLENGER: Well, I'm talking
9 about, when we go down onto the next page --

10 MR. CASSIDY: Oh, like the annual
11 cost?

12 MR. BALLENGER: Yes.

13 MR. CASSIDY: Correct.

14 MR. BALLENGER: So 15 million per
15 Bcf, and you multiply that out by the 3.2 to
16 get to 48 and then multiply that by another
17 30 to get 1.4.

18 MR. CASSIDY: That's correct.

19 MR. BALLENGER: I'm dangerous with a
20 calculator.

21 So I wanted to refer back, if we
22 could, to the response to PA-CB-9, which is
23 the RFP. I don't know if you have that
24 handy.

1 MR. DASENT: I'm looking for it.

2 MR. BALLENGER: Again, we can do it
3 subject to check, it's on the record, but...

4 MR. DASENT: Give us a second.

5 MR. BALLENGER: No problem.

6 MR. CASSIDY: Okay, I think we have
7 it.

8 MR. BALLENGER: So I'm on, it's
9 numbered Page 9 of 46, and there's a
10 paragraph that begins: "In a year with a
11 design winter..." -- it's the third
12 paragraph on the page -- it says: "...PGW
13 will require approximately 2.7 Bcfs of LNG."
14 And I'm just picking up on the difference
15 between the 2.7 and the 3.2.

16 MR. CASSIDY: Right. So 2.7 is what
17 PGW needs at the beginning of a design
18 winter.

19 MR. BALLENGER: So that's the
20 storage. That's what you need to have in
21 storage.

22 MR. CASSIDY: That's the storage that
23 we need to have in the tanks at the
24 beginning of a design winter. Because of

1 boiloff in other months outside of the
2 winter, that's where the other 0.5 comes.
3 So the 3.2 number that we referenced is
4 including boiloff for the entire year, so
5 that's why there looks to be a discrepancy.

6 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And PGW's
7 average LNG production -- which, again, I
8 think it's presented in the RFP, Appendix
9 I want to say G -- and I'm scrolling,
10 scrolling, yes -- Appendix F, I'm sorry --
11 gives PGW's average LNG production from its
12 existing plant as between 1.1 and 2.4 Bcf on
13 an annual number.

14 MR. CASSIDY: That's over a number of
15 years; correct. I'm not looking at it.
16 Yes.

17 MR. BALLENGER: Right. And there was
18 sort of similar data provided in response to
19 PA-CB-13 and the highest amount of LNG
20 produced by PGW in the last five years was
21 1.8 Bcf.

22 MR. CASSIDY: That sounds accurate,
23 yes.

24 MR. BALLENGER: I think I've covered

1 what I've planned to and I certainly don't
2 want to take up more time than necessary
3 since there are some members of the public
4 who are interested, so I'll pause there.

5 Obviously if Mr. Morgan has any
6 additional questions...

7 MR. MORGAN: No.

8 MR. BALLENGER: Then perhaps the
9 Hearing Examiners.

10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Do the Hearing
11 Examiners have any questions at this time?

12 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: No questions.

13 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: I have a
14 few for Mr. Cassidy. And sorry to ask you
15 to do even more math and if this is too
16 much, we can maybe put it as a TR request.

17 But when you referenced the
18 \$90 million that if you did not have the
19 LNG, that that would have cost, do you have
20 any way to quantify that for us in terms of
21 how it would impact a customer?

22 MR. CASSIDY: I think it would be
23 best to follow up with that.

24 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Okay.

1 MR. DASENT: That's fair.

2 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: So then that
3 would be our -- we haven't finalized the
4 numbering of the TRs, but that will be the
5 third TR then, I guess.

6 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: And then
7 just one more question.

8 MR. DASENT: Excuse me. I just want
9 to make sure I understand the question.

10 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Oh,
11 sorry.

12 MR. DASENT: I'm trying to take notes
13 as we go.

14 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Yes.
15 And we'll send this out to you as well.

16 But the \$90 million that Mr. Cassidy
17 testified PGW would have had to spend in
18 this 15-day period that we just had of the
19 cold weather, how would that be quantified
20 in customer terms or in customer bills?

21 MR. DASENT: Okay. Thank you.

22 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: And then
23 the other question I had was I think,
24 Mr. Cassidy, you mentioned the potential

1 interruption to firm customers. Just what
2 does that mean from a customer perspective?
3 What would a customer -- I can understand it
4 in the abstract, but -- as someone in their
5 home or business, what would that mean?

6 MR. CASSIDY: So depending on the
7 scale of the interruption, it could mean
8 anything from us asking larger customers
9 that don't have heating to, you know, shut
10 down. It could go all the way to asking
11 customers to reduce their thermostat, the
12 average customer to reduce their thermostat
13 setting, and even more extremely to actually
14 shutting off sections of the City if it got
15 to the worst-case scenario.

16 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Okay.
17 Thank you. That's all I had.

18 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.
19 Mr. Dasent, does PGW have any
20 redirect?

21 MR. DASENT: Yes, we will, if I could
22 have just one moment.

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.
24 And, again, I want to offer my

1 apologies to those participating virtually
2 for the camera issues.

3 MR. DASENT: I'm ready.

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay,
5 Mr. Dasent, if you're ready to proceed.

6 MR. DASENT: Thank you. Just three
7 questions.

8 Mr. Cassidy, you discussed P3
9 negotiations in the questioning by
10 Mr. Ballenger this morning. The term sheet
11 was referred to or the conclusion of
12 negotiations was referred to as
13 September 2026.

14 What's the target date?

15 MR. CASSIDY: So the target date
16 would be September or sooner; sooner than
17 September, earlier than September, if
18 possible.

19 MR. DASENT: Okay. You also were
20 questioned by Mr. Ballenger concerning
21 design winter considerations.

22 Does PGW have to plan for a design
23 winter such as the one we've just
24 experienced in every year, that's the basis

1 for our planning, to keep customers with
2 reliable service?

3 MR. CASSIDY: Yes. So PGW plans for
4 design winter and design day conditions
5 every year and it just so happened that we
6 recently had a period of weather that
7 approached some of those design
8 winter/design day type conditions.

9 MR. DASENT: Now, in evaluating
10 whether we would proceed with a new LNG
11 liquefier, PGW examined various options,
12 including trucking LNG. Mr. Ballenger
13 questioned you on that subject.

14 In addition to costs, however,
15 associated with LNG, are the number of trips
16 an issue as well as the availability of LNG,
17 for that matter?

18 MR. CASSIDY: Correct. So both of
19 those are concerns. Currently we cannot get
20 3 Bcf of LNG delivered by trucking. It's
21 just not available.

22 And, in addition, I think I listed
23 approximately 1,200 trucks per Bcf per week
24 would be required to be delivered to the

1 Richmond Plant and the Passyunk plant
2 combined.

3 MR. DASENT: That's all we have.

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

5 So I think that that is everything
6 from the participants. Is there anything
7 else from the Public Advocate at this
8 juncture?

9 MR. BALLENGER: We have nothing
10 further.

11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. And
12 then nothing else from PGW.

13 So at this point we are going to open
14 up the hearing for public testimony. We
15 will start with those individuals who are in
16 the room. There is a microphone for you set
17 up in the middle behind the table where PGW
18 and the Public Advocate are appearing.

19 I will call your name. If you can
20 just, when your name is called, if you wish
21 to speak, step forward to the mic; introduce
22 yourself; state what, if any, organization
23 that you represent. You will have three
24 minutes to speak. We will give you a

1 warning at 30 seconds.

2 Once we are finished with the
3 individuals who are here in person wishing
4 to testify, we will then move to taking the
5 virtual participants. We will ask you to
6 raise your hand. We will call your names as
7 they appear on our screen so there will be
8 some semblance of order.

9 Just to reiterate what was said
10 earlier, everyone who is participating,
11 whether here in the room or virtually, will
12 be given the opportunity to speak regardless
13 of whether you signed up beforehand or not.

14 So, again, we don't know who was
15 operating a sign-up sheet. But if you wish
16 to speak, just make sure that you raise your
17 hand and you will have the opportunity to
18 offer your comments within the three minutes
19 allotted for each person.

20 So beginning with the individuals who
21 are in the room, we first have Emily Davis.

22 MS. DAVIS: It's on?

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: We'll tell you
24 when to begin speaking.

1 Before you begin, you know, we don't
2 want your introduction to take away from
3 your three minutes, so if you could just
4 introduce yourself and what organization you
5 represent.

6 MS. DAVIS: I'm Emily Davis. I am
7 with HERE 4 CJ and the Sierra Club. I have
8 been a resident of Philadelphia for 40
9 years.

10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: If you could
11 just, to make sure that the individuals who
12 are virtual can hear you, step a little
13 closer and speak directly into the mic.

14 MS. DAVIS: Better?

15 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: Yeah.

16 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Perfect,
17 that's perfect.

18 Okay. Thank you. You may begin.

19 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: You may
20 begin.

21 MS. DAVIS: The City has stated its
22 commitment to eliminate climate pollution by
23 2050. PGW seems to be thinking about
24 low-carbon pathways.

1 Along with the Office of
2 Sustainability, they produced the PGW
3 Business Diversification Study, which began
4 in 2018 and was completed in 2021. That's
5 five years ago. Now they are funding a
6 study for low-carbon pathways.

7 We don't need any more studies. We
8 need action that reflects the City's goal of
9 ending climate pollution by 2050.

10 This budget does not show any funding
11 for geothermal networks nor any of the other
12 strategies suggested in the study. It does,
13 however, suggest \$14 million for new gas
14 pipelines and service lines. With only 24
15 years until 2050, these new lines would
16 become stranded assets.

17 Make the Capital Budget reflect the
18 City's goals and the warming earth's need
19 for action now.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you,
24 Ms. Davis.

1 Next is Patrick Houston. Again,
2 introduce yourself and what organization, if
3 any, that you are here to represent.

4 MR. HOUSTON: Is that coming through
5 clearly?

6 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I think you
7 can take it off of the stand.

8 MR. HOUSTON: Okay.

9 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Given your
10 height it might be easier.

11 MR. HOUSTON: Right, and rather than
12 adjusting the stand.

13 Everybody, my name is Patrick
14 Houston. I'm with HERE 4 Climate Justice.
15 Today I'm testifying on my own behalf as an
16 individual.

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Just one
18 second.

19 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: You can start
20 now.

21 MR. HOUSTON: Okay. So some of the
22 things I want to share here, I'm Patrick
23 Houston. I grew up in Hunting Park in North
24 Philadelphia. I currently live in lower

1 North Philly. And thanks for this
2 opportunity to testify today.

3 I just want to share a little bit,
4 when I reflect back on the household I grew
5 up in, old, leaky Philadelphia household;
6 lived there with many, many siblings; and in
7 the winter we would crank all of our old gas
8 stoves to stay warm. It was necessary. We
9 needed to use gas to heat our home. We had
10 to eat food. We would use our gas stove to
11 make the meals that we needed.

12 Of course, this came at really high
13 costs. It came at a really high financial
14 cost for my oldest brother, my guardian, for
15 us to be able to have a warm home. It came
16 at a high health cost for, in fact, that
17 same eldest brother, who had asthma.

18 And at the time we didn't know, but
19 when he would start to have some symptoms,
20 when we think back, it's like, oh, it was on
21 those really hot summer days or sometimes
22 back at home in the winter when we would
23 really have to crank that heat.

24 But, of course, gas for heat then was

1 necessary, gas for cooking was necessary for
2 our household. But what did we do? With
3 the little that we had, we gradually began
4 to plan for alternatives that were better
5 for our health, for our safety, and for our
6 heating needs.

7 And so over time we were able to
8 replace some of the really old -- remember
9 those old brown gas stoves or gas heaters
10 where you had the three panels of flame?
11 Well, we were able to upgrade some of those
12 bit by bit. Could we do them all at once?
13 No. We could only do a bit at a time
14 because finances were so tight. But we made
15 that responsible decision for our family's
16 well-being.

17 So now you can compare this right to
18 where we are as a city with PGW. Of course,
19 this LNG plant, when we have these crazy
20 cold spikes, people's homes need to be warm.
21 But we're going to be forever locked into
22 this perpetually unhealthy cycle if we don't
23 start to look at what are some of the cost
24 alternatives that we could start to invest

1 in, what are some of the clean energy
2 alternatives that we can start to invest in.

3 Right now, as far as I've seen --

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

5 MR. HOUSTON: 30 seconds? Thanks for
6 the heads-up -- so as far as I've seen so
7 far, the entire budget, \$350 million, goes
8 into perpetuation of fossil fuel
9 infrastructure.

10 There's this plant with its
11 questions, to me some of it looks
12 questionable, about the justification of the
13 timeline for the LNG plant.

14 And then zero dollars as far as I've
15 seen for clean energy alternatives sounds
16 wholly irresponsible.

17 I would argue, my eldest brother's
18 financial prudence and management, maybe PGW
19 could learn a few lessons from them.

20 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Time.

21 MR. HOUSTON: So I'll wrap up my
22 testimony there. But I just want to implore
23 the Gas Commission to scrutinize this
24 budget; invest in clean energy alternatives;

1 meet our 2050 climate goals and just the
2 needs for our City's safety, health, and
3 sustainability.

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you,
5 Mr. Houston.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next I believe
10 that the name is Ivan Boyle.

11 MR. BOYKO: Boyko.

12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Boyko?

13 MR. BOYKO: Yes. Thank you.

14 THE COURT REPORTER: Can you spell
15 that, sir?

16 MR. BOYKO: B-O-Y-K-O.

17 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

18 MR. BOYKO: Hi. Thank you for having
19 me and thank you for being here.

20 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Again, just a
21 reminder to everyone -- and this includes
22 everyone who is going to be speaking
23 virtually -- introduce yourself; what, if
24 any, organization you're representing.

1 Once you do that, give us a second to
2 let you know when to begin speaking. We
3 don't want your introductions cutting into
4 your three-minute time limit. So we're
5 trying to make sure that you introduce
6 yourself and then we start after that. It's
7 not fair for your introduction to count.

8 MR. BOYKO: Thank you. I appreciate
9 that.

10 My name is Ivan Boyko. I'm a
11 long-time Philadelphia resident and I'm a
12 student at the University of Pennsylvania.
13 And I'm here with HERE 4 Climate Justice and
14 Citizens Climate Lobby, but I'm speaking on
15 behalf of myself.

16 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: All right.
17 You may start now.

18 MR. BOYKO: Thank you for having me
19 here and thank you for having these public
20 hearings.

21 I want to talk a little bit about the
22 city that we are in right now. It's the
23 250th anniversary of America's founding of
24 the Declaration of Independence and what

1 makes Philadelphia so different than other
2 cities and what makes America been able to
3 develop into the hegemon, to the super
4 power, that we are today is through
5 innovation.

6 And with this proposal and with
7 everything here there is no innovation, and
8 we are tying ourselves into a continuous
9 loop of just more and more fossil fuel
10 emissions and so forth.

11 There has been so much research, so
12 much work done by other countries across the
13 globe and other cities that have really
14 developed and researched and committed to
15 their 2050 plans and to other plans for the
16 future that have really invested in new
17 energy and new ways because everything here
18 is, yes, we are going to be able to afford
19 to have more energy and more stuff for the
20 winter, which is important.

21 But in the long term it is so
22 shortsighted. And the winters are just
23 going to get colder and colder and the
24 summers are just going to get hotter and

1 hotter. And while we just contribute to
2 climate change, we are really doing nothing,
3 and your long-term costs are going to be the
4 ones that are being hurt and the people's
5 health is going to be hurt.

6 And so while we are innovating in
7 terms of engineering and business and
8 whatsoever, we are really being shortsighted
9 here, and I think everyone here knows that
10 and we are just digging ourselves into our
11 own grave.

12 Thank you, and I appreciate it.

13 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next we have
18 Miles Owen.

19 MR. OWEN: Miles Owen, HERE 4 Climate
20 Justice.

21 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: You may start
22 now.

23 MR. OWEN: Thank you all for having
24 this meeting here today.

1 My background is as a first
2 responder, as a firefighter and a paramedic,
3 and also as an infrastructure planner at the
4 regional and national level.

5 So I just want to start with I
6 appreciate all the investments that are
7 being made in safety and efficiency and I
8 understand the improvements those will make
9 over the lifetime of the asset.

10 So I actually thought that the
11 conversation was really interesting and I
12 appreciate the work being done. I want to
13 speak, though, about the context at the
14 national and at the city level.

15 As we all read in the news, the
16 Federal Government is moving back from doing
17 any sort of climate planning or really any
18 climate work at all, and this is going to
19 have tremendous impacts on all of our
20 communities, especially the most vulnerable.

21 So PGW now has an opportunity to have
22 so much more of an impact on that stage
23 because there's been so much retrenchment at
24 the national level.

1 At the city level we're already
2 seeing the other utilities take leadership
3 roles. We have PWD with the Green City,
4 Clean Waters; PECO with their investments in
5 sustainability and exploring alternative
6 means of electrification.

7 Where's PGW? What we want to see
8 here is that work from PGW to innovate, to
9 explore alternative ways to supply heat for
10 the people that need it; especially, as you
11 pointed out, those winters are getting
12 warmer. You have less demand over the
13 coming decades.

14 And I appreciate the investments
15 you're doing in safety and efficiency, but
16 from someone who is a PGW customer and a
17 Philadelphia resident, I want to see those
18 same investments being targeted in ways that
19 improves the City as a whole and you join
20 the other utilities and the City in
21 innovating and preparing for future climate
22 change and all of that risk.

23 So thank you very much and thank you
24 for your discussions as well.

1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next I believe
6 it's Eric Stowers.

7 MR. STOWERS: Hello. My name is Eric
8 Stowers. I am not here with a formal group.

9 THE COURT REPORTER: Could you spell
10 your last name?

11 MR. STOWERS: Spell it?

12 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes.

13 MR. STOWERS: S-T-O-W-E-R-S.

14 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

15 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: You may start
16 now, Mr. Stowers.

17 MR. STOWERS: Thanks.

18 I'm not here with a formal group
19 today, but I live in Port Richmond, so I'm
20 here to represent my son's future. I just
21 dropped him off at school this morning
22 before coming here, he's in preschool right
23 now, and I am very concerned about his
24 future and all kids' futures wherever they

1 live.

2 I'm going to mainly be commenting
3 about the Port Richmond facility, so just
4 keep that in context.

5 Mr. Cassidy makes great points about
6 the need for replacing the plant. I totally
7 get the safety aspects there. I agree with
8 the logic that if the plant is going to
9 fail, we'd rather replace it before a
10 catastrophe happens, right, than to have to
11 worry about turning off people's heat. So I
12 follow all the logic on that.

13 But I don't agree with the idea of
14 this seems to be a cloaked version of
15 getting the plant to just being an expansion
16 of the capability of what it can do.

17 If we really cared about the public
18 safety, it would be to replace and fix the
19 plant in order to maintain operations so
20 that way we can move away from liquid
21 natural gas over time to meet PGW's climate
22 goals.

23 When I heard that the plant is going
24 to be ready by 2030, that especially hurt,

1 and it makes sense that building stuff takes
2 time, but 2030?

3 Like I remember like five years ago
4 we were talking about the innovation that
5 we'd have by 2030, and now we just keep on
6 kicking things back to 2050, because it
7 seems so far away; right?

8 We can't be investing in a brand-new
9 plan in 2030 that's going to make it so that
10 way we can have more liquid natural gas when
11 we need to move away from fossil fuels.

12 So my point is, this is not a
13 transitional fuel plant. This is really a
14 plant to make us dependent on liquid natural
15 gas long term. And that's not the right
16 solution for the community, and it's not the
17 right solution especially for our kids and
18 their futures.

19 So, Philadelphia Gas Commission,
20 please take this stuff into account. The
21 logic for replacing the plant? I vote for
22 keeping it safe. I vote for repairs to make
23 sure that we have the demand to keep us warm
24 right now. I like having a warm house.

1 Okay? I'm a PGW customer. I forgot to say
2 that earlier. But we need to think broader.

3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

4 MR. STOWERS: Thank you.

5 We've got to have a perspective that
6 isn't trapped in making liquid natural gas
7 the only solution. It can be the
8 transitional plan, but we need to make it a
9 lot shorter. And right now this plan does
10 not meet that. Thanks.

11 Oh, by the way, all the people from
12 Port Richmond, I saw you on the meeting
13 list. Thank you so much for joining.

14 - - -

15 (Applause.)

16 - - -

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

18 Next is Sara Baier.

19 MS. BAIER: Hi. My name is Sara
20 Baier and I am not here with any group
21 today. I am here as a resident of Port
22 Richmond.

23 THE COURT REPORTER: Could you spell
24 your first and last name?

1 MS. BAIER: My last name is spelled
2 B-A-I-E-R.

3 THE COURT REPORTER: And your first?

4 MS. BAIER: Sara, S-A-R-A.

5 THE COURT REPORTER: Thanks.

6 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: All right.
7 You may start now.

8 MS. BAIER: I'm here, as I mentioned,
9 as a Port Richmond resident and a parent who
10 thinks daily about the environmental
11 exposures that my daughter is exposed to and
12 what it would mean for further investment in
13 the LNG facility in Port Richmond and what
14 that means for families like mine.

15 I urge the Philadelphia Gas
16 Commission to require full transparency;
17 meaningful public engagement, so outside of
18 just this Teams meeting; a careful
19 evaluation of the long-term impacts before
20 any decisions move forward.

21 This is not just a routine technical
22 upgrade. It's a long-term investment in
23 fossil fuels that conflicts with
24 Philadelphia's 2050 carbon neutral

1 commitment.

2 The proposed Capital Budget plan
3 adopts a status quo approach, spending
4 hundreds of millions on gas infrastructure
5 without regard to the climate crisis or the
6 affordability crisis.

7 It also moves forward without a
8 transparent alternative analysis despite the
9 fact that peak demand can be reduced through
10 other methods: weatherization, geothermal
11 networks, seasonal thermal storage, and
12 other clean energy investments that would
13 both lower emissions and costs for
14 ratepayers.

15 Port Richmond is a working-class
16 neighborhood that has long carried more than
17 its fair share of the City's industrial
18 burden and investing further in LNG
19 infrastructure here raises serious concerns
20 about safety, air quality, emergency
21 preparedness, and environmental justice.

22 It is also not clear that the
23 existing liquefier must be replaced on the
24 proposed timeline.

1 Because PGW is municipally owned,
2 this is not only an energy decision; it's a
3 public trust decision. Ratepayers are being
4 asked to finance infrastructure that will
5 shape our energy system for generations to
6 come, including the risk of stranded assets
7 if the City meets its climate goals.

8 I believe that residents deserve
9 clear, accessible information about these
10 risks, the approval process, and how their
11 voices will shape the outcome. Any
12 increased revenue should go towards lowering
13 bills and investing in clean, safe, and
14 affordable energy.

15 So I respectfully ask the Commission
16 to slow this process down and to require
17 full public transparency about the health,
18 safety, environmental, and financial risks;
19 ensure meaningful and accessible
20 opportunities for community input; and to
21 dedicate capital to conduct a serious
22 evaluation of clean energy pathways,
23 including the forthcoming low-carbon study,
24 and to scrutinize --

1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

2 MS. BAIER: -- to scrutinize -- thank
3 you -- if we need to fund the liquefier now.

4 So as a parent and a Philadelphian I
5 am asking you to put the health, safety, and
6 long-term future of our communities first.

7 Thank you.

8 - - -

9 (Applause.)

10 - - -

11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

12 Next is Mitch Chanin.

13 MR. CHANIN: Hi. Mitch Chanin,
14 M-I-T-C-H, C-H-A-N-I-N; PGW ratepayer,
15 Northeast Philly resident; and I'm a member
16 of HERE 4 Climate Justice, but I'm speaking
17 for myself.

18 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: You may start
19 now, Mitch.

20 MR. CHANIN: Great. Thank you so
21 much for the opportunity to speak. I really
22 appreciate all the other testimonies that
23 I've heard today.

24 As a Philly resident, as an organizer

1 and an activist, I want to make sure that
2 all my neighbors can be warm in the winter
3 at rates that they can afford and I want to
4 preserve a livable climate, and I don't
5 think that the proposed Capital Budget is
6 consistent with my values for the reasons
7 that everyone has stated today.

8 PGW probably has a need to have an
9 LNG facility for the reasons that were
10 stated. What is unclear is how large it
11 should be and what kind of LNG facility we
12 need in light of the shift away from natural
13 gas that is already happening and the
14 possibilities, the opportunities, to reduce
15 peak demand for natural gas in a way that
16 would make heating more affordable for
17 people and move us towards our phaseout of
18 fossil fuels, which the Mayor and City
19 Council have committed to through their 2050
20 carbon neutrality commitments.

21 The design day is not a fixed number.
22 It is something that is determined by the
23 technology that we use in our city, how well
24 our homes are weatherized and insulated,

1 whether we are building thermal energy
2 networks and other alternatives to natural
3 gas for heating our buildings, all of which
4 is absolutely necessary if we want to have
5 even a chance to achieve our city's climate
6 goals.

7 The future in which the design day,
8 the peak demand for gas, remains consistent
9 for the lifetime of this plant is one in
10 which we are completely scorching the planet
11 and making it uninhabitable.

12 It cannot be the case that we
13 continue to have this peak demand for
14 natural gas in 2050 if we're even taking our
15 climate goals seriously even in a minor way.
16 It's impossible. We have to be reducing
17 natural gas usage and it's already
18 happening.

19 PGW has commissioned this low-carbon
20 pathways report. We don't know when it's
21 due because we get no information from PGW
22 about this and so far I have had no
23 opportunity to be involved or to comment.

24 However, my understanding is that

1 that project, that report, is designed to
2 map out --

3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

4 MR. CHANIN: -- possible pathways for
5 PGW to provide energy services in a way that
6 is consistent with the climate goals and
7 affordability.

8 So if they are evaluating all these
9 technology options, which I hope would be
10 looking at how that would affect the peak
11 demand for natural gas, then the Gas
12 Commission should not approve any
13 expenditure on this LNG facility or any
14 other new fossil fuel infrastructure until
15 that report is completed and the public has
16 had a chance to evaluate it.

17 So, yeah, I'll wrap up in just two
18 seconds.

19 I really would urge the Commission to
20 scrutinize this and not to approve any
21 spending on this LNG plant until we have had
22 a real look at the pathways for PGW to meet
23 our climate goals and affordability goals.

24 Thank you.

1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: And next, the
6 last person I think in person, is Emily
7 Abendroth.

8 MS. ABENDROTH: Again, my name is
9 Emily Abendroth; my last name,
10 A-B-E-N-D-R-O-T-H. I am a Philadelphia
11 resident and a member of the HERE 4 Climate
12 Justice coalition, but I'm speaking on my
13 own behalf.

14 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: Okay. You
15 can begin now.

16 MS. ABENDROTH: I'm speaking today as
17 someone who has been a PGW customer for 25
18 years but who actually closed that PGW
19 account in August, as I have been gradually
20 transitioning the appliances in my home to
21 electric appliances as I am financially able
22 to do so out of concern for the health of
23 myself and my loved ones as it relates to
24 indoor air quality and out of concern for my

1 neighbors and other Philly residents as it
2 relates to the climatic changes caused by
3 fossil fuel use that we are currently
4 experiencing and which we will continue to
5 increase that experience without changes to
6 our reliance on fossil fuels. I am in some
7 ways an example of falling customer demand.

8 And I was interested to hear, like
9 echoing some other folks here, that the new
10 PGW LNG liquefier would actually not come
11 online until 2030.

12 Even using the reduced lifespan model
13 that you already mentioned of 25 to 30 years
14 proposed in this budget, that shorter
15 lifespan extends beyond 2050 and places it
16 in operation beyond the time at which this
17 city, based on its own resolutions, has
18 committed to carbon neutrality.

19 I am concerned that we have yet to
20 see PGW take seriously enough the necessity
21 to create and subsequently meet benchmarks
22 that would indicate its commitment and
23 progress toward the 2050 climate goals of
24 this city.

1 As a resident of Philly and with the
2 understanding that PGW is a municipally
3 owned utility, I am concerned that PGW has
4 not thoroughly evaluated a full range of
5 options for ensuring adequate gas supply at
6 times of peak demand.

7 This is going to echo something that
8 Mitch said, but it is my understanding that
9 PGW has already contracted with
10 Environmental Resources Management to
11 produce an in-depth study about potential
12 low-carbon pathways.

13 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

14 MS. ABENDROTH: Okay.

15 It seems reasonable to assume that
16 this study will provide information and
17 analysis that's relevant to this decision.
18 If so, the Commission should postpone this
19 decision until the report becomes available.

20 In closing, I kind of want to direct
21 this less at PGW and more at the Gas
22 Commission and just offer that we would love
23 to see the Gas Commission asking PGW to
24 clearly demonstrate in its annual yearly

1 budgets now and beyond a commitment to an
2 alignment with the City's own climate
3 commitments.

4 Thank you.

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

6 - - -

7 (Applause.)

8 - - -

9 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: We are now
10 going to turn to those who are participating
11 virtually. Right now I just see two hands
12 raised.

13 If you wish to speak, if you are a
14 virtual participant and you wish to offer
15 comments, please raise your hand using the
16 controls in Teams. Again, we will call your
17 name in the order that we are seeing it.

18 As with the in-person participants,
19 we are going to ask you to introduce
20 yourself; the name of the organization that
21 you represent, if any. Once you've done
22 that, then we will begin the timer for you
23 to speak.

24 As I mentioned earlier, we don't want

1 to cut into your three minutes via your
2 introductions.

3 So I'm just going to give it a few
4 more seconds to see. Obviously you can
5 continue to raise your hands. But I'll just
6 give it a few more seconds just so if we can
7 have an idea.

8 Okay. The first name that I am
9 seeing is a Paul Devine Bottone. I'm sorry
10 if I mispronounced your name.

11 MR. BOTTONE: Yes. Can you hear me?

12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Yes, we can
13 hear you, if you could just introduce
14 yourself.

15 MR. BOTTONE: Yes, sure. My name is
16 Paul Devine Bottone. It's nice to be here
17 with everybody. I appreciate this
18 opportunity. I am a pediatrician. Sorry;
19 I'm actually at the hospital right now if
20 there's a lot of background noise.

21 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I'm sorry; if
22 you could just maybe get a little closer to
23 your mic. It seems like you sat back a
24 little bit from your camera and we can hear

1 you, but it wasn't as clear as it could be.

2 MR. BOTTONE: Is that better?

3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: That is much
4 better. Thank you. If you are done with
5 your introductions, we can start your time.
6 Let us know.

7 MR. BOTTONE: Yes, you can start.
8 Just by way of introduction, sorry, I'm a
9 pediatrician and an analyst and health
10 specialist and I'm here as part of
11 Physicians for Social Responsibility of
12 Pennsylvania, but I'm speaking on my own
13 behalf.

14 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: Okay.

15 MR. BOTTONE: So, yes, just to get
16 started --

17 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: Wait.

18 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Please, sir.
19 As a reminder again to everyone, we
20 will tell you when your time starts. Okay?

21 MR. BOTTONE: Okay.

22 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: So introduce
23 yourself, pause, and then we will start you.

24 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: You may

1 start --

2 MR. BOTTONE: All right. That's all
3 I had to say by way of introduction.

4 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: You may start
5 now, sir.

6 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You can start.

7 MR. BOTTONE: Okay, great. Thanks.

8 So I am a PGW customer. I'm also a
9 father. I have a 2-year-old at home. And,
10 you know, as I said, I'm a pediatrician, so
11 I'm always thinking about kids' health but,
12 of course, public health more broadly.

13 And, you know, the more that we learn
14 about the effects of natural gas processing,
15 combustion, overall natural gas use and the
16 impacts on human health, the more concerning
17 it is.

18 You know, we have evidence that
19 especially internally, in our homes, natural
20 gas presents numerous health hazards that,
21 you know, we really are only coming to
22 understand.

23 The gas industry seems to have pushed
24 back on a lot of that, unsurprisingly, which

1 does not lower our concern by any means.

2 And when we think about the
3 entrenchment of natural gas use, as
4 everybody has so articulately pointed out,
5 you know, not just in the next few years,
6 but the next 20, 30, 50 years, it really is
7 deeply concerning from a health perspective.

8 When we think about a city like
9 Philadelphia that is an environmental
10 justice city, where folks have an extremely
11 high rate -- well above national average
12 rates -- of asthma, COPD, other respiratory
13 diseases, cardiac diseases that are
14 significantly impacted by pollution, we
15 really need to be doing everything we can,
16 not just to address climate goals, but also
17 truly to address our pollution goals.

18 And what we know is that the use of
19 natural gas both inside and outside of our
20 homes is a huge problem for public health.

21 The EPA has essentially said that
22 they are no longer, the federal EPA, no
23 longer going to regulate any sort of
24 pollution in our communities and so it is

1 incredibly important that we act locally.

2 We are very lucky to have PGW as this
3 municipally owned entity that we can impact
4 decision-making. But, you know, when this
5 is going to be a federal abdication of duty,
6 you really need to be saying, as anybody who
7 has children, who has elderly folks, who has
8 anybody in their life with any type of
9 health issue or even risk for a health
10 issue, we really need to be saying that we
11 need to be extremely careful about investing
12 more in a fuel source that we know has so
13 many immediate and long-term health risks.

14 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

15 MR. BOTTONE: Was that saying my
16 time?

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

18 MR. BOTTONE: Okay, perfect.

19 And then I think just my last point
20 would be, you know, when we again think
21 about the climate aspect and, you know, the
22 way in which this is not in line with all of
23 our immediate goals, you know, I just want
24 to point to one thing that I think the

1 gentleman representing PGW said.

2 It sounds like this cold winter that
3 we had, which we know is way out of line
4 with recent winters, even this cold winter
5 did not meet PGW's ideas for this like model
6 that they're using. So that did not meet
7 the model.

8 And, you know, PGW we know has
9 extensive ties to gas and has all these
10 folks who are involved in the industry. We
11 need to be thinking very carefully --

12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: That is your
13 time.

14 MR. BOTTONE: -- about whether or not
15 we are going to allow for that analysis to
16 be used.

17 But thanks very much, everybody. I
18 appreciate it.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next we have
24 Meg -- and please forgive me if I

1 mispronounce your name -- Lemieur.

2 MS. LEMIEUR: Yes. My name is Meg
3 Lemieur and I am a concerned resident in
4 Port Richmond.

5 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: Your time is
6 starting now, Ms. Lemieur.

7 MS. LEMIEUR: I'm sorry; were you
8 saying I can start now?

9 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: Your time is
10 started.

11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You may start
12 now.

13 MS. LEMIEUR: Great. So as a Port
14 Richmond resident I am concerned about the
15 continued investment in LNG infrastructure
16 in my neighborhood.

17 Port Richmond holds 26,000 residents
18 and I only found out about this meeting
19 today because a neighbor posted about it in
20 a Facebook group. There has been zero
21 outreach done in the neighborhood, and as a
22 publicly owned company PGW has an obligation
23 to get genuine public input about projects
24 like this one and it is failing to do that.

1 LNG plants are known to pollute the
2 air. Even when the best equipment is used,
3 it eventually breaks, as we've been talking,
4 and there are leaks. We've seen this all
5 over.

6 Philadelphia is ranked the fourth
7 worst city for asthma in the U.S. If the
8 LNG plant is built here in Port Richmond,
9 there will be a 2,000% increase in truck
10 trips in the area, overburdening my
11 neighborhood with air pollution.

12 Speaking of leaks, just on
13 February 4th an LNG pipeline exploded in
14 Louisiana. These fires cannot be put out;
15 they must burn out themselves, leaving
16 massive destruction in their wake.

17 And this wasn't a one-off incident.
18 Pipelines and plants explode and that
19 happens often, and no one deserves having
20 this threat just blocks away from their
21 homes.

22 Based on listening today, it also
23 sounds like the current plant isn't in use
24 all year-round. It is shut down sometimes.

1 The new plant will be able to run all of the
2 time. But usage overall has decreased over
3 the years.

4 So why are we planning to use more
5 LNG or create more? Who else is invested in
6 this plant? Who else besides Philadelphians
7 will be buying this LNG and using it?

8 Port Richmond will suffer because of
9 this plant, while PGW makes money? That
10 money doesn't go back to Philadelphians, I'm
11 sure. There needs to be more transparency
12 around this.

13 We do not need more fossil fuel
14 infrastructure in the largest municipally
15 owned gas utility in an age of catastrophic
16 climate change. We need to pivot away from
17 fossil fuels immediately and we will keep
18 fighting for the health of our
19 neighborhood --

20 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

21 MS. LEMIEUR: -- until that happens.

22 Thank you.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

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EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.
Next I believe is Linnea Bond.

MS. BOND: Hi. Good morning.

EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Please make
sure that you're as close to your mic as
possible.

MS. BOND: How's that?

EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: That's much
better, thank you.

Go ahead and introduce yourself; your
organization, if any; and then we will let
you know when you may begin speaking.

MS. BOND: My name is Linnea Bond. I
personally am a PGW ratepayer and I also
represent Physicians for Social
Responsibility of Pennsylvania, which is an
organization concerned with the health of
Pennsylvanians impacted by environmental
factors, including the impacts of heavy
industry and global warming.

EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You may begin
now.

MS. BOND: Gas has a lot of impacts

1 on human health. Fortunately in
2 Philadelphia we don't experience the impacts
3 of fracking, like cancer, like undrinkable
4 water; but I personally know people who must
5 brush their teeth with bottled water, north
6 in Montrose, west in Washington County.

7 There's also major air pollution
8 impacts from gas all along the pipeline from
9 source to kitchens. 12% of asthma is
10 attributable to gas stoves and we're in an
11 asthma capital.

12 I'm concerned about the impact of
13 this LNG storage facility on nearby
14 neighborhoods. We talk a lot about the
15 cumulative impact of pollution on
16 neighborhoods. This storage facility is
17 operating alongside a lot of industries and
18 diesel trucks from many warehouses and adds
19 its own pollution to that soup.

20 I've seen it. PSR PA has a FLIR
21 camera that we turned on this facility and
22 it's leaking a lot of hydrocarbons. I
23 wonder if improvements can be made to
24 decrease leaks without expensive

1 replacements.

2 It's not clear to me what the impacts
3 of this proposal are for air pollution in
4 terms of new parts and also in terms of
5 expanded capacity and functioning more
6 frequently.

7 I worry that while explosion risk is
8 a public health concern for PGW, that
9 pollution is not. Overall in this budget we
10 see no movement away from this polluting and
11 climate-changing fuel, even as technologies
12 have improved since this facility was
13 completed in 2002.

14 We've seen gas demand declining and
15 we know we're facing the potential of a
16 financial crisis for PGW customers as a
17 result. We know that we need to stop gas
18 buildout so no new neighborhoods experience
19 risks that those already near gas do and to
20 deescalate gas infrastructure in
21 neighborhoods like Port Richmond that are
22 already impacted. But that thinking is
23 absent from this budget and from PGW's
24 culture.

1 I call on the Gas Commission to hold
2 PGW accountable for long-term planning that
3 frees us from fossil fuels that pollute our
4 neighborhoods and homes, contaminate our
5 water, have caused four home explosions in
6 Philadelphia alone in the last seven years,
7 and are quickly raising global temperatures
8 causing extreme heat, flooding, and
9 unlivable environments for humans and entire
10 ecosystems.

11 Thanks. That's all I have to say
12 today.

13 - - -

14 (Applause.)

15 - - -

16 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

17 Give me just one second, please.

18 Thank you for your patience.

19 Next we have Justin Balling.

20 MR. BALLING: Good morning. My name
21 is Justin Balling. Can you hear me all
22 right?

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Yes, we can.

24 MR. BALLING: Good morning. My name

1 is Justin. I don't represent anyone other
2 than myself and my household.

3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. You may
4 begin now.

5 MR. BALLING: I don't have much to
6 say that hasn't been said already other than
7 that I'm a Port Richmond resident and
8 homeowner and I'm concerned about the
9 continued investment in my neighborhood for
10 the LNG infrastructure.

11 I think that we need a long-term plan
12 that takes us away from gas and protects our
13 public health while also keeping our energy
14 affordable.

15 I also take great issue with the fact
16 that I only found out about this hearing
17 yesterday and I only found out through the
18 posting of a neighbor. I don't think that
19 that's very fair to the residents of this
20 community. I find it very shady and I stand
21 against everything that they're trying to do
22 here.

23 And that's all I have to say about
24 it.

1 - - -

2 (Applause.)

3 - - -

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

5 Next we have a Kate K. I think,
6 based on what I'm seeing, you're the only
7 person who doesn't have your full name
8 listed, so if you could just provide your
9 full name before you begin speaking --

10 MS. KRAUSS: Sure.

11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: -- with your
12 introduction, including the spelling.

13 MS. KRAUSS: Sure. I'm Kate Krauss,
14 K-R-A-U-S-S, and I'm a resident of Port
15 Richmond.

16 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You may begin
17 now.

18 MS. KRAUSS: Philadelphia needs to
19 get out of the business of oil and gas; not
20 double-down on it. As a Port Richmond
21 resident I am calling on the Gas Commission
22 to hold PGW accountable.

23 I oppose building or rebuilding this
24 gas facility. It will likely lead to

1 unhealthy, smelly air in the neighborhood.
2 These facilities inevitably leak and
3 sometimes they literally explode.

4 Peer review research shows that
5 people who live near fossil fuel facilities
6 show elevated asthma and cancer rates,
7 especially pediatric cancer.

8 This budget absolutely does not
9 reflect the need to get out of gas, which
10 the City has committed to do by 2050. It is
11 an expensive, reckless plan that doesn't
12 benefit the people of Philadelphia.

13 Gas remains unhealthy for the Port
14 Richmond community, for the City, for the
15 State, and literally for the world because
16 it is a major cause of climate change.

17 And, by the way, I believe this
18 facility is in a flood zone. This facility
19 is in a flood zone. Why would we rebuild
20 something that is going to be flooded?

21 That is the end of my statement.

22 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

23 - - -

24 (Applause.)

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EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next we have Karen Melton.

If you could again introduce yourself; who you represent, if any; and then we will tell you when to begin speaking.

MS. MELTON: Okay. My name is Karen Melton. I live in Philadelphia. I'm a PGW customer and I am not representing any organization.

EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. You may begin now.

MS. MELTON: Thank you.

Joe Biden is known to have said: Don't tell me what you value. Show me your budget.

What your budget says to me is that you are not planning for the future needs of Philadelphia, a future no longer dependent on fossil fuels and its associated pollution.

By focusing just on the cost of maintaining your current system, you ignore

1 the future burdens all Philadelphians will
2 have to pay, such as more public health
3 impacts of fossil fuel pollution, lost
4 opportunities for workers to transition to
5 jobs of the future, and the stranded assets
6 of infrastructure you keep investing in that
7 will be obsolete well before it wears out.

8 Pursuing business as usual, as
9 reflected by this budget, guarantees we will
10 have to pay those increased future costs.

11 If your goal as a City-owned utility
12 was to provide affordable energy, not simply
13 to maintain what you already have, you would
14 invest in measures such as more building
15 weatherization, seasonal thermal storage,
16 and geothermal networks that would reduce
17 demand as well as greenhouse gas emissions,
18 aligning with the City's climate objectives;
19 and if and when it became necessary to
20 replace the liquefier plant, a smaller
21 footprint could meet the need.

22 The long-term solution to reliable,
23 affordable service is strategic investment
24 in a diverse set of clean alternatives that

1 reduce our reliance on gas. Those are the
2 values I would like to see in your budget.

3 Thank you.

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

5 - - -

6 (Applause.)

7 - - -

8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next we have
9 Brianna Andes. And, again, I apologize if I
10 mispronounced your name.

11 MS. ANDES: Good morning. No.
12 That's correct. My name is Brianna Andes.
13 I am a PGW customer and a resident of
14 Philadelphia and in Port Richmond. I am not
15 here with any organization. I'm just a
16 clean air advocate on behalf of myself.

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. You may
18 begin now.

19 MS. ANDES: I also want to reiterate
20 the fact that I didn't find out about this
21 meeting until yesterday night through word
22 of mouth through a neighborhood group and my
23 main point is that our community here in
24 Port Richmond also deserves the same access

1 to clean air and safety standards as every
2 other community that has refused to be the
3 location for this project.

4 A couple people have mentioned the
5 home explosions that have occurred here in
6 the neighborhood. Those families years
7 later are still tied up in litigation and
8 those families don't have answers or
9 closure.

10 People have also mentioned asthma
11 effects and asthma is currently the
12 number-one chronic illness in children, just
13 replaced by long COVID, which is actually
14 another clean air issue; and this will not
15 only affect our health, but the health of
16 our children, which is very important.

17 And that's pretty much all that I
18 have to say, so thank you.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

20 - - -

21 (Applause.)

22 - - -

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: At this time I
24 am not seeing any additional hands raised to

1 speak. This will be the final call for
2 comments from virtual participants.

3 MS. KAINTH: My hand is raised.

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: It just popped
5 up on the screen. We do see you. Give it a
6 few more seconds just to see if anybody else
7 raises their hand.

8 If you're raising your hand to speak
9 and you just have your first name in the
10 box, if at all possible, can you please
11 update it with your full name so that we
12 have an appropriate record of your
13 participation. We do intend to make sure
14 that it is noted, everyone that spoke, that
15 it is noted.

16 Okay. I think next is -- and, again,
17 please forgive me if I mispronounce your
18 name -- Devneet Kainth.

19 MS. KAINTH: Yeah. My name is
20 Devneet Kainth. I am a PGW consumer, I am a
21 resident of Philadelphia, and also I am with
22 the organization Physicians for Social
23 Responsibility.

24 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You may begin

1 now.

2 MS. KAINTH: Okay. I am a medical
3 student at Drexel University in my fourth
4 year. I'm going to be an OB-GYN physician
5 planning to deliver babies across
6 Philadelphia and in other states as well.
7 And I'm also a substitute teacher right now
8 in Philadelphia. I work in a school,
9 elementary school, that I'm currently
10 working in today.

11 I just want to reiterate what
12 everyone said, that there is proven negative
13 health outcomes in our local communities and
14 also globally.

15 I also work with the kids and also
16 will be giving birth to the kids that will
17 be born into this society that we create
18 and, as everyone pointed out, investing only
19 in gas for the future is not protecting
20 anybody's health and it's not working
21 towards a better future.

22 And I just hope that PGW will
23 recognize all of the people here today who
24 raised their voices and want a better future

1 for future generations.

2 Thank you.

3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

4 - - -

5 (Applause.)

6 - - -

7 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: And finally we
8 have Kelli. We do not have your full name,
9 so if you could provide that, including
10 spelling.

11 MS. SILVA: Yes. I couldn't figure
12 out how to edit my name on the box, but it's
13 Silva, S-I-L-V-A.

14 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: And are you
15 with an organization or just here speaking
16 on behalf of yourself?

17 MS. SILVA: I'm speaking on behalf of
18 myself.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. You may
20 begin.

21 MS. SILVA: Thank you.

22 I'm a Port Richmond resident. I,
23 too, only found this out through word of
24 mouth last night actually, so that is

1 concerning.

2 I just wanted to come on here and say
3 that I recently had a baby and my concern
4 for children's health is definitely higher
5 than it was before having kids.

6 I live on a street where children are
7 constantly playing outside. You know, when
8 it's not freezing out or super hot out, the
9 kids are outside.

10 And just to also note that
11 Philadelphia was recently voted as America's
12 most walkable city, which goes to show that
13 there are a lot of people out and about
14 walking around outside. I see a lot of
15 neighbors, you know, walking their dogs.
16 And there's just a lot of outdoor activity,
17 which raises a lot of concern about the
18 health, especially for this neighborhood.

19 And I am just here to give my voice
20 and say that it doesn't seem like there's
21 any concern on PGW's behalf of how to
22 address public health for our whole
23 community.

24 Thank you.

1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

2 - - -

3 (Applause.)

4 - - -

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: There being no
6 more members of the public wishing to speak
7 virtually, before we do the final wrap-up of
8 logistics before concluding this hearing, I
9 just wanted to say, the Gas Commission can't
10 speak for any outreach that PGW may have
11 done.

12 Notice of this meeting was posted on
13 the Gas Commission's website a week
14 beforehand. I am sorry that you did not
15 know about it beforehand. But it was posted
16 in accordance with the law one week
17 beforehand.

18 Turning from that, we will go to the
19 TR requests that were developed out of
20 today's hearing.

21 If the Public Advocate and counsel
22 for PGW can, after I read, recognizing that
23 the language will be tweaked before we
24 actually send these out, so if it doesn't

1 quite sound right, you know, there will be
2 opportunity to get the language corrected.

3 I have as TR-1, it is really just
4 formalizing the language for this
5 agreed-upon stipulation, making sure that
6 the Public Advocate agrees with what PGW has
7 submitted as part of its stipulation.

8 MR. BALLENGER: If I may, I'm sorry.
9 It seems to be the case that the final TR is
10 for us to articulate our positions. I think
11 that would be, in my opinion, the preferable
12 way to do that in case we don't reach a
13 mutual agreement.

14 But anticipating that we're very
15 close, it just gives us the opportunity to
16 set forth sort of in our own words, if we do
17 have any distinctions or differences, the
18 basis for the adjustments that we have
19 presented, whether by stipulation or
20 otherwise.

21 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: So would it be
22 agreeable to...

23 - - -

24 (The Executive Director confers with

1 the Hearing Examiners off the record.)

2 - - -

3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Oh, you mean
4 the --

5 MR. BALLENGER: The final TR.

6 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: So then --

7 MR. BALLENGER: And I anticipate that
8 reflecting what we have gone through today.

9 MR. DASENT: Yes.

10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. So just
11 so we're clear, at the start of this we had
12 said that this was going to be TR-1. You
13 want to just make that the last standard
14 transcript request that we make.

15 MR. DASENT: Exactly.

16 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. So then
17 that is no longer TR-1. That is included in
18 the final one.

19 So then TR-1 will actually be PGW's
20 final -- it's in regards to the
21 Reimbursement Management System and the
22 language surrounding that or whether or not
23 you guys --

24 MR. DASENT: Yes. And we should also

1 include that --

2 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

3 MR. DASENT: -- in the overall TR
4 because I have a feeling it's going to be a
5 full package.

6 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. So then
7 we are really just down to two TRs then.

8 MR. DASENT: Yes.

9 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: So then TR-1,
10 the actual TR-1, coming from the Hearing
11 Examiners basically -- and, again, we will
12 tweak the language -- quantify PGW's
13 identified \$90 million cost to provide gas
14 during the most recent cold snap to PGW
15 customers. In other words, how much would I
16 guess spot purchasing and the like, would
17 that have cost PGW customers. And, again,
18 we will play with the language.

19 And then TR-2 is going to be those
20 budget adjustments that are acceptable, the
21 standard language that we typically use,
22 those budget adjustments that are acceptable
23 to the Public Advocate and to PGW
24 respectively.

1 MR. DASENT: Yes. Thank you.

2 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Is
3 there anything else from -- I will go to the
4 Public Advocate first -- is there anything
5 else?

6 MR. BALLENGER: Assuming there's
7 nothing else from PGW, there's nothing else
8 from the Public Advocate.

9 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

10 MR. DASENT: From PGW, we spoke a
11 little bit about conditional funding in our
12 request. We'd like to articulate that in
13 detail in our brief --

14 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: That will be
15 fine.

16 MR. DASENT: -- the conditions that
17 would trigger the release of conditional
18 funding as we proposed it --

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

20 MR. DASENT: -- because I think the
21 transcript is a little muddled and I want to
22 make sure we respect or reflect our general
23 counsel's articulation of how these
24 conditions should work.

1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

2 Is there anything that our wonderful
3 court reporter needs?

4 THE COURT REPORTER: No, thank you.

5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Anything from
6 the Hearing Examiners at this time?

7 HEARING EXAMINER BELL: No.

8 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: No.

9 MR. DASENT: Just one more thing:
10 Briefing. We're hoping to get a couple more
11 days for the brief. If we can get it
12 Friday, the 6th, as opposed to the 3rd, it
13 would help us mightily because we are trying
14 to give you the best possible presentation
15 for purposes of your deliberations.

16 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I would
17 imagine that the Advocate would not object
18 to an additional three days.

19 MR. BALLENGER: It's coming out of
20 nowhere. Hang on. Let me just look at my
21 calendar.

22 Yeah, I think we're okay with that.

23 My concern was seeing the conditional
24 funding proposal for the first time in the

1 brief and not having an opportunity to
2 respond to that. That was my only concern.
3 I don't know if PGW would be willing to
4 articulate that in its TR-2 --

5 MR. DASENT: Yes.

6 MR. BALLENGER: -- so that we have
7 the opportunity to respond in our brief.

8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. That
9 actually was what I was about to ask, would
10 PGW be open to making that -- so then that
11 becomes TR-2, PGW's proposal on conditional
12 funding for LNG.

13 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Wouldn't
14 it just be included?

15 MR. BALLENGER: Yes. I think it was
16 just the explanation for sort of the
17 conditional funding request for that item
18 and supporting why that would be appropriate
19 in the TR.

20 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I think that
21 I'm reluctant to roll it into the standard
22 TR only because I feel like it's going to be
23 kind of substantial. So I think a TR is
24 fine. I would just make that TR-2 and then

1 the standard TR will be 3 --

2 MR. BALLENGER: Okay.

3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: -- just
4 because it kind of is the linchpin of where
5 we're at at this point and I think that it
6 deserves its own stand-alone response as
7 opposed to being moved in with these other
8 two.

9 MR. BALLENGER: I have no objection
10 whatsoever. I think that's a perfectly
11 reasonable approach.

12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: So that will
13 be TR-2 and then TR-3.

14 Just give us a moment.

15 - - -

16 (The Executive Director confers with
17 the Hearing Examiners off the record.)

18 - - -

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: When we send
20 out the TR requests, we will let you know
21 regarding the additional time. We need to
22 check our calendars, which we don't have in
23 front of us, to try to just make sure that
24 we remain on course for this to come before

1 the Commissioners for a vote at the April
2 Commission meeting.

3 So we will let you know -- the TR
4 requests, we anticipate those coming out
5 later this afternoon -- we will let you know
6 regarding the additional time at that time.
7 We just don't want to answer now without
8 kind of consulting.

9 MR. DASENT: Okay. And the TR
10 requests themselves need to be responded to
11 by maybe Tuesday of next week?

12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I think that
13 that's reasonable.

14 Mr. Ballenger, does that work for
15 you?

16 MR. BALLENGER: I was going to ask
17 the same question, and Tuesday works fine.
18 Thank you.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. There
20 being nothing else at this point, this
21 public hearing is adjourned.

22 Thank you all, both here in person
23 and virtually, for your participation in
24 this.

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(Whereupon the hearing adjourned at
11:57 a.m.)

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Reported By: Susan Marie Migatz, RMR, CRR

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PGW Hearing 1	Summary of Budget Adjustments Acceptable to PGW	11

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INDEX OF TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE/LINE
TR-1 (To PGW)	Regarding PGW's testimony that during the recent 15 day cold snap, without its LNG reserves, PGW would have had to spend approximately \$90 million to supply gas to its customers: Please quantify the impacts of this on the average PGW customer's monthly bill.	55/16
TR-2 (To PGW)	Regarding PGW's request for funding to replace the Richmond Liquefier, please explain in detail PGW's proposal for conditional funding for this project.	119/11
TR-3 (To PGW)	Is there a cost associated with keeping the current liquefier running until we have more information about the future of the project? If there is a cost, can you please clarify whether that amount is included in the capital budget?	

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INDEX OF TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS (Continued)

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE/LINE
TR-4 (To PGW and the Public Advocate)	Provide a schedule setting forth all adjustments to the proposed FY 2027 Capital Budget that you believe are supported by the record at this point, including a brief narrative describing each that references the record support, as well as a calculation showing the impact of each adjustment on the budget.	116/19

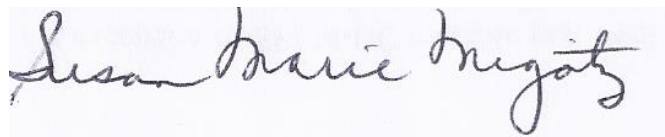
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I do hereby certify that I am a Notary Public in good standing, that the aforesaid testimony was taken before me, pursuant to notice, at the time and place indicated; that said deponent was by me duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the testimony of said deponent was correctly recorded in machine shorthand by me and thereafter transcribed under my supervision with computer-aided transcription; that the deposition is a true and correct record of the testimony given by the witness; and that I am neither of counsel nor kin to any party in said action, nor interested in the outcome thereof.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 20th day of February, 2026.



Notary Public

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