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- - -
PHILADELPHIA GAS COMMISSION
- - -
PGW'S PROPOSED FY 2023 CAPITAL BUDGET,
FORECAST FOR FY 2024 TO 2028,
AND RELATED MATTERS

- - -
April 26, 2022
10:05 a.m.

- - -
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

- - -
BEFORE: DEREK GREEN, Chairman
ROYAL E. BROWN
KELLAN WHITE, Alternate
Commissioners

- - -
VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS
MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION
1801 Market Street - Suite 1800
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Page 2

1 APPEARANCES:
2
3 ANDRE C. DASENT, ESQ.
4 Counsel to Philadelphia Gas Works
5 COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.
6 BY: KINTÉSHIA SCOTT, ESQ.
7 Counsel to Public Advocate
8 EARTHJUSTICE
9 BY: DEVIN McDOUGALL, ESQ.
10 Counsel to POWER
11
12 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGC:
13
14 GEMELA N. McCLENDON, ESQ.
15 Executive Director
16
17 HEIDI L. WUSHINSKE, ESQ.
18 Hearing Examiner
19 ANNA M. CORRADO ROWE
20 Senior Analyst
21
22 TIMOTHY MURTHA
23 Financial Analyst/Internal Auditor
24
25 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGW:
26
27 WILLIAM J. GALLAGHER
28 Vice President, Budget and Strategic
29 Development
30 MELANIE McCOTTRY
31 Vice President, Corporate Communications and
32 External Affairs
33 CRAIG W. BERRY, ESQ.
34 Senior Attorney
35
36 STEPHEN SCHUMMER
37 Manager, Budget Reporting

Page 3

1 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGW: (Continued)
2
3 MARY LYNN O'BOYLE
4 Administrative Assistant
5
6 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST:
7
8 ALLEN DREW
9 AMANI REID
10 BRIAN BAUGHAN
11 CAROLYN KLEPSE
12 DAVID CLOWNEY
13 EMILY BERKOWITZ
14 EMILY-Fund geothermal (no last name provided)
15 GENEVA BUTZ
16 JAMIR HUBBARD
17 JULIE GREENBERG
18 JOHN MARSHALL
19 JORDAN TEICHER
20 KNAR GAVIN
21 MELISSA D (no last name provided)
22 MITCH CHANIN
23 M. M. (no first/last name provided)
24 PATRICIA LIBBEY
25 PETER FURCHT
26 PETER WINSLOW

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1 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST: (Cont'd)
2
3 SHAWMAR PITTS
4
5 SHAWN HOGAN
6
7 STEVE GREENSPAN
8
9 TAMMY MURPHY
10
11 WENDY GREENSPAN
12
13 WILLIAM COZZENS
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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good morning. This
2 is Tuesday, April 26th. I am Council Member
3 Derek Green, Chair of the Gas Commission.
4 We'll open up today's Gas Commission hearing.
5 In addition, we know we have various
6 people who are attending from the public.
7 There has been a poll that has been set up
8 for those of you who are interested in
9 making any type of statement publicly during
10 the hearing. That way you can be
11 recognized.
12 Please submit information to the
13 poll. We are going to give an opportunity
14 for those who want to testify to provide two
15 minutes, after those parties who have
16 already appeared before the Hearing
17 Examiners, to make a presentation.
18 Please complete that poll as well as
19 throw into the chat feature and send your
20 name, first and last name, to Gemela
21 McClendon, Esquire, who is the Executive
22 Director of the Gas Commission.
23 So, once again, please complete the
24 poll if you would like to testify and then

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1 also in the chat feature provide your first
 2 and last name to Ms. McClendon so we can
 3 have that information so that way we can
 4 make sure we acknowledge all those who would
 5 like to testify when it is the appropriate
 6 time.
 7 Also, I am doing double duty. We are
 8 in City Council budget hearings. So I may
 9 have to leave for a moment just to provide a
 10 quorum for the budget committee hearing,
 11 which is also starting this morning at 10:00
 12 a.m.
 13 So let's begin. I understand that
 14 current state law --
 15 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I'm sorry, Mr.
 16 Chairman. Before you get started, my
 17 apologies, it looks like all 20 people
 18 individuals who are in the meeting have
 19 responded. We have six people who wish to
 20 speak according to the poll.
 21 So I am going to go ahead and end the
 22 poll at this point since all participants in
 23 the meeting have responded at this point.
 24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.

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1 And, once again, if you would like to
 2 speak, make sure you send information in the
 3 chat feature to Ms. McClendon.
 4 I understand that current state law
 5 requires that the following announcement be
 6 made at the beginning of every remote public
 7 hearing as follows:
 8 Due to the current public health
 9 emergency, Gas Commission meetings are
 10 currently occurring remotely. We are using
 11 Zoom to make these remote hearings possible.
 12 Instructions for how the public may
 13 participate in these meetings are included
 14 in the public meeting notices and can be
 15 found on the Gas Commission's website.
 16 I would like to acknowledge that we
 17 do have a quorum with the presence of
 18 myself, Derek Green, Chair of the Gas
 19 Commission; as well as -- let me make
 20 sure -- Gene Brown, Vice Chair of the Gas
 21 Commission; and also Kellan White serving as
 22 a representative of City Controller Rebecca
 23 Rhyhart.
 24 At this point I would like to have

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1 our Executive Director, Gemela McClendon,
 2 Esquire, read the agenda and have it marked
 3 and entered into the record as Gas
 4 Commission Exhibit #1.
 5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: "The
 6 Philadelphia Gas Commission will hold a
 7 regular meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2022,
 8 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom video conferencing due
 9 to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purpose of
 10 considering:
 11 "The Philadelphia Gas Works' Proposed
 12 Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget, Forecast
 13 for Fiscal Years 2024 to 2028, and Related
 14 Matters; and
 15 "Such other business as may properly
 16 be brought before this Commission.
 17 "A link to the virtual meeting room
 18 will be posted on the Commission's website
 19 so as to allow members of the public to
 20 participate.
 21 "Derek S. Green, Chairman."
 22 ---
 23 (Whereupon Gas Commission Exhibit #1
 24 was marked for identification purposes.)

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1 ---
 2 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you,
 3 Ms. McClendon. I will begin.
 4 The first item on the agenda is PGW's
 5 Proposed FY 2023 Capital Budget and
 6 Amendments Thereto, Forecast of Capital
 7 Budgets for Fiscal Years 2024 through 2028,
 8 and Related Matters.
 9 Section IV.2.b. of the City-PFMC
 10 Management Agreement requires PFMC to
 11 prepare an annual capital budget, which must
 12 be satisfactory to the Gas Commission and
 13 include a funding plan. Under that same
 14 section, we must review PGW's capital budget
 15 proposals and submit our recommendations to
 16 City Council.
 17 Section IV.2.c. provides that PGW
 18 must spend in accordance with approved
 19 budgets.
 20 These and other applicable legal and
 21 governance standards are detailed in the
 22 Recommended Decision.
 23 The procedural history of this matter
 24 prior to issuance of the Recommended

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 Decision is detailed in that document, but I 2 will briefly summarize the highlights. 3 On January 3rd, 2022, PGW filed a 4 proposed FY 2023 Capital Budget and related 5 forecast together with testimony and a 6 supporting PFMC Board resolution and various 7 supporting schedules and departmental 8 budgets. 9 Formal discovery and informal 10 discovery took place. 11 Witnesses for POWER and the Public 12 Advocate filed testimony on March 3rd and 13 March 4th respectively. 14 A public hearing was held on 15 March 8th. 16 PGW, the Advocate, and POWER filed 17 briefs on March 18th, which will be marked 18 respectively as Gas Works Exhibit #1, Public 19 Advocate Exhibit #1, and POWER Exhibit #1. 20 - - - 21 (Whereupon Gas Works Exhibit #1, 22 Public Advocate Exhibit #1, and POWER Exhibit 23 #1 were marked for identification purposes.) 24 - - -</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Neither PGW nor the 2 Advocate filed exceptions or reply 3 exceptions. 4 To facilitate our preparation for 5 today's meeting Commission Staff developed a 6 Briefing Guide. This document outlines the 7 Hearing Examiners' recommended budget 8 adjustments and other recommendations. 9 A draft of this document was shared 10 with the participants on April 22nd. The 11 final version of the Briefing Guide will be 12 marked as Gas Commission Exhibit #3. 13 - - - 14 (Whereupon Gas Commission Exhibit #3 15 was marked for identification purposes.) 16 - - - 17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I would like to ask 18 Ms. McClendon to provide an overview of the 19 recommended budget and the issue area still 20 in dispute. 21 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: (Inaudible.) 22 THE COURT REPORTER: Gemela, you are 23 on mute. 24 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You would think</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: On April 1st 2 Executive Director Gemela McClendon and 3 Hearing Examiner Heidi Wushinske issued a 4 Recommended Decision. 5 They recommended various line item 6 adjustments and reporting and filing 7 requirements, as well as rejection of 8 POWER's proposal to add up to \$500,000 to 9 PGW's capital budget for a potential thermal 10 network project. 11 The Recommended Decision will be 12 marked as Gas Commission Exhibit #2. 13 - - - 14 (Whereupon Gas Commission Exhibit #2 15 was marked for identification purposes.) 16 - - - 17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: On April 8, 2022, 18 POWER filed exceptions to the Recommended 19 Decision. POWER's exceptions will be marked 20 as POWER Exhibit #2. 21 - - - 22 (Whereupon POWER Exhibit #2 was marked 23 for identification purposes.) 24 - - -</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 after almost two years... 2 Thank you, Chairman Green, for the 3 opportunity to speak. 4 First and foremost, I would like to 5 thank the participants and Gas Commission 6 Staff for their hard work in positioning 7 this matter for the Commission's 8 consideration today. 9 All of the recommendations made by 10 the Hearing Examiners related to the budget 11 proposals made by PGW itself were 12 uncontested. There were some 13 recommendations made regarding how to 14 implement them, but they were uncontested. 15 The only outstanding issue for the 16 Commission's consideration today is POWER 17 Interfaith's recommendation to add a 18 \$500,000 line item to PGW's FY 2023 Capital 19 Budget for advanced engineering related to 20 geothermal networking. 21 That is all that I have at this time. 22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, 23 Ms. McClendon. 24 Although the participants have</p>

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1 clearly set forth their positions in their
 2 written submissions, we would like to
 3 provide them with the opportunity to make
 4 brief comments regarding any additional
 5 comments they would like to make subsequent
 6 to the submissions that have been provided.
 7 We first would like to hear from PGW,
 8 Mr. Berry.
 9 MR. BERRY: Good morning,
 10 Commissioners. My name is Craig Berry. I am
 11 representing PGW.
 12 PGW supports the Recommended Decision
 13 filed by the Gas Commission Staff. We do
 14 not have anything further.
 15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.
 16 At this point I would like to
 17 acknowledge the Public Advocate, Ms. Scott.
 18 MS. SCOTT: Good morning, everyone.
 19 My name is Kintéshia Scott and I'm appearing
 20 today on behalf of the Public Advocate.
 21 The Advocate is appreciative of the
 22 efforts of the Gas Commission Staff, the
 23 Company, and Intervenor POWER thus far over
 24 the course of this proceeding.

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1 We are also appreciative of the
 2 recommendations of the Hearing Examiners,
 3 which allows for further exploration of the
 4 diversification of PGW.
 5 In light of the Hearing Examiners'
 6 recommendations for PGW to include the pilot
 7 programs recommended in the Diversification
 8 Study in the upcoming operating budget, the
 9 Advocate notes that low-income advocates and
 10 consumer advocates alike are not in favor of
 11 on-bill financing, tariff on-bill financing,
 12 or any novel financing opportunities
 13 associated with weatherization programs.
 14 We believe that these mechanisms will
 15 not diversify PGW but aim to further tie
 16 customers financially to the Company. Low-
 17 and moderate-income ratepayers cannot afford
 18 additional fixed costs to be added to their
 19 PGW bills.
 20 As such, we ask the Commission to
 21 implore PGW to continue to explore
 22 diversification options while taking into
 23 consideration options that not only serve
 24 the Company but the ratepayer, whom it

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1 serves.
 2 Thank you.
 3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ms. Scott.
 4 Is there anyone here from Local 686
 5 who would like to present any comments at
 6 this time?
 7 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I don't believe
 8 that representation from 686 is on today's
 9 meeting.
 10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you,
 11 Ms. McClendon.
 12 Mr. McDougall, do you have a
 13 statement you would like to make?
 14 MR. McDOUGALL: Yes. Thank you.
 15 I also appreciate all the work done
 16 by the Commission and the parties to dig
 17 into the issues in this case.
 18 For the reasons that we've set forth
 19 in our testimony and briefs and exceptions,
 20 we would urge the Commission to resolve the
 21 question of investment in advanced
 22 engineering for thermal networks favorably,
 23 as recommended by our expert. We believe
 24 this issue can and should be resolved in

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1 this proceeding for the reasons set forth in
 2 our filings.
 3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you,
 4 Mr. McDougall.
 5 Ms. McClendon, do you have the names
 6 of those who would like to offer some
 7 testimony?
 8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: First we have
 9 Steve Greenspan.
 10 And just as a reminder, there is a
 11 two-minute time limit. We will give you a
 12 notification when there is 30 seconds left.
 13 After two minutes we will have to mute you.
 14 As Chairman Green mentioned, he is in City
 15 Council budget hearings at the same time so
 16 we want to try to be mindful.
 17 Mr. Greenspan, are you ready?
 18 MR. GREENSPAN: I am.
 19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. You can
 20 begin now.
 21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And hold on, before
 22 you start, Ms. McClendon.
 23 Everyone, before you start your
 24 testimony, just please state your first and

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1 last name for the record for our court
 2 reporter.
 3 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.
 4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.
 5 Mr. Greenspan, you can begin now.
 6 MR. GREENSPAN: Thank you.
 7 My name is Steven Greenspan. I am a
 8 ratepayer and resident of Philadelphia.
 9 Thank you for this opportunity to speak to
 10 the Gas Commissioners on behalf of POWER
 11 Interfaith.
 12 On April 20 POWER and 33 other
 13 community organizations sent a letter to the
 14 City Council members who are not part of the
 15 Gas Commission. The letter asked the City
 16 Council to instruct PGW to include \$500,000
 17 for thermal network advanced engineering
 18 work in the FY '23 Capital Budget as
 19 proposed by POWER in its expert witness
 20 testimony to the Gas Commission.
 21 In addition to POWER, this letter was
 22 cosigned by By Grace Alone Christian
 23 Reformed Church; Centennial Parkside CDC;
 24 Chestnut Hill United Church; Church of

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1 St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal; Clean
 2 Air Council; Clean Water Action; Climate
 3 Witness Project; Delaware Riverkeeper
 4 Network; Drexel Dayenu Circle; Faculty and
 5 Staff Federation of Community College of
 6 Philadelphia; Friends, Peace, and Sanctuary
 7 Journal; Geodelphia; Hunting Park Community
 8 Revitalization Corporation; Hunting Park
 9 Community Solar Initiative; Hunting Park
 10 Christian Academy; Make the Road PA;
 11 Neighbors Against the Gas Plants;
 12 PennEnvironment; PennFuture; Pennsylvania
 13 Interfaith Power & Light; Philadelphia
 14 Neighborhood Networks; Philly DSA; Philly
 15 Thrive; Physicians for Social Responsibility
 16 PA; Reclaim Philadelphia; Sierra Club -
 17 Southeastern PA Group; Spirit and Truth
 18 Fellowship; Summit Presbyterian Church --
 19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.
 20 MR. GREENSPAN: -- Sunrise Philly;
 21 Tabernacle United Church; Unitarian
 22 Universalists of Mt. Airy Congregation;
 23 Vocatio Career Prep High School; and 8th
 24 Street Community Church.

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1 We urge you to instruct PGW to revise
 2 its capital budget and include \$500,000 for
 3 thermal network advanced engineering work in
 4 FY '23.
 5 Thank you.
 6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.
 7 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next we have
 8 Jordan -- and pardon me if I mispronounce
 9 your name -- Teicher.
 10 MR. TEICHER: Thank you. Can I start?
 11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: If you're
 12 ready, yes.
 13 MR. TEICHER: Yes. Thank you.
 14 My name is Jordan Teicher. I'm a
 15 ratepayer, resident of West Philadelphia,
 16 and a member of Philly DSA.
 17 In April the world's leading
 18 scientific authority on climate change, the
 19 IPCC, issued its latest report and its
 20 conclusions were clear: To prevent a
 21 humanitarian catastrophe the world needs to
 22 reduce greenhouse gas emissions 43% by 2030
 23 and stop adding greenhouse gas into the
 24 atmosphere entirely by 2050. And as a

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1 country that has historically emitted more
 2 greenhouse gases than any other, the United
 3 States need to decarbonize even faster than
 4 that.
 5 Members of this Commission, leaders
 6 at PGW, and our representatives in City
 7 Council claim to care about the people of
 8 this City. So I ask you: Where in PGW's
 9 capital budget can one find the plan to
 10 prevent a humanitarian catastrophe? Where
 11 is the road map for PGW to scale down and
 12 ultimately cease its gas service? Where is
 13 the plan to prepare our union workforce for
 14 the energy jobs of tomorrow?
 15 We have all seen this budget and we
 16 know that there is no such plan. The only
 17 plan in this capital budget is a plan for
 18 disaster.
 19 Despite years of repeated calls from
 20 individuals and organizations for PGW to
 21 take the climate crisis seriously, this
 22 budget fails to include any funds for
 23 technologies like network geothermal that
 24 would help transition us away from fossil

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1 fuels. On the contrary, this budget is set
 2 to deepen our commitment to fossil fuels.
 3 Reading this budget is like reading a
 4 work of fantasy from a world where climate
 5 change simply isn't happening and we simply
 6 don't have time for fantasies anymore.
 7 This year we need to start building
 8 Philadelphia's new energy system. We know
 9 what those renewable alternatives are.
 10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.
 11 MR. TEICHER: We just need help in
 12 this meeting to have the courage to stand up
 13 for them.
 14 There is a saying that a budget is a
 15 moral document, a reflection of our values
 16 and priorities, of who and what we value.
 17 Well, if that is the case, then this
 18 budget is an immoral document. This
 19 document values business as usual over the
 20 health and safety of Philadelphians.
 21 And we're paying attention to what's
 22 happening here. We see that leaders at PGW
 23 and City Hall are staring down the barrel of
 24 the humanitarian catastrophe and are

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1 deciding once again to step on the gas. We
 2 expect better and we deserve better.
 3 Thank you.
 4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.
 5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next we have
 6 Peter Furcht.
 7 MR. FURCHT: Good morning. I am Peter
 8 Furcht, a homeowner and resident of the West
 9 Washington Square area.
 10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Furcht?
 11 MR. FURCHT: Yes.
 12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: One second. I
 13 have to start the timer for you.
 14 MR. FURCHT: Okay.
 15 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You may begin.
 16 MR. FURCHT: Good morning. I am Peter
 17 Furcht, a resident of the Washington Square
 18 West area here in Philadelphia, and I
 19 represent myself, a concerned citizen.
 20 And for full disclosure, I am a
 21 customer of the PGW gas distribution system,
 22 but I do not purchase gas from PGW. I
 23 source my gas from a PGW competitor who is
 24 willing to provide me with an alternative

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1 green gas, which PGW is neither willing nor
 2 able to do.
 3 And while PGW makes no progress
 4 towards providing green alternatives and
 5 uses the excuse and the scare tactic that
 6 green gas prices and the alternative energy
 7 is too expensive, the largest portion of my
 8 monthly gas bill is always, always the PGW
 9 distribution charges, not the actual gas
 10 charge, even though I buy green gas.
 11 What do I see in the PGW budget?
 12 Missed opportunities.
 13 Missed opportunities to investigate
 14 and experiment with new methods of providing
 15 energy to Philadelphians.
 16 Missed opportunities to begin the
 17 process of adjusting to a new business
 18 paradigm where natural gas is not the energy
 19 source of choice.
 20 Missed opportunities to begin
 21 building PGW's inhouse green -- excuse me --
 22 expertise and to be a participant at the
 23 start of the green industries, technologies,
 24 and processes revolution.

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1 Missed opportunities in creating new
 2 jobs and training employees to work in green
 3 jobs related to green industries and
 4 technologies.
 5 Missed opportunities to begin
 6 expanding energy offerings to
 7 Philadelphians.
 8 Missed opportunities to begin
 9 building new revenue --
 10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.
 11 MR. FURCHT: -- new revenue streams
 12 for alternative energy sources as the cost of
 13 fossil-based natural gas inevitably rises,
 14 and the true cost of natural gas is borne by
 15 PGW customers.
 16 And missed opportunities for PGW and
 17 Philadelphia to be a leader in energy
 18 transformation rather than a company with
 19 its head buried in the sand hoping that
 20 nothing will change.
 21 We are talking about an energy
 22 transition, not an overnight energy switch,
 23 so why doesn't PGW have any significant
 24 budget item related to this energy

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1 transition?
 2 PGC, please do not approve --
 3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Furcht --
 4 MR. FURCHT: -- PGW's budget as it
 5 is --
 6 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: -- that is your
 7 time.
 8 MR. FURCHT: -- currently presented.
 9 Thank you.
 10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ms. McClendon, I just
 11 have a quick question for Mr. Furcht.
 12 You are currently receiving, you
 13 said, green gas as a renewable natural gas?
 14 ---
 15 (No response.)
 16 ---
 17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Furcht, are you
 18 still with us?
 19 MR. FURCHT: Sorry; somebody muted me.
 20 It is landfill gas.
 21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. And who is
 22 your provider? I'm just curious.
 23 MR. FURCHT: Energy Co-op.
 24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

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1 Okay. Thank you.
 2 MR. FURCHT: You're welcome.
 3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next we have
 4 Amani Reid.
 5 MS. REID: Thank you.
 6 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Reid, are
 7 you ready?
 8 Ms. Reid; my apologies. Are you
 9 ready?
 10 MS. REID: Yes, I am. Thank you.
 11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. You may
 12 begin.
 13 MS. REID: Thank you.
 14 Good morning, everyone. My name is
 15 Amani Reid. I live in North Philadelphia.
 16 I'm part of Pennsylvania Interfaith Power &
 17 Light.
 18 Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
 19 is a community of congregations, faith-based
 20 organizations, and individuals of faith
 21 responding to climate change as an ethical
 22 and moral issue through advocacy, education,
 23 energy conservation, energy efficiency,
 24 stewardship, and of course the use and

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1 promotion of clean renewable energy.
 2 Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
 3 is dedicated to advocating for renewable
 4 energy. This includes transforming PGW into
 5 a fossil-free utility.
 6 We need PGW to allocate \$500,000 for
 7 planning network geothermal pilot projects
 8 in the next fiscal year and we cannot wait
 9 any longer. That's why we've partnered with
 10 POWER and 32 other groups on this specific
 11 need.
 12 We come to this work and I come to
 13 this work from my faith background and come
 14 from different spiritualities and faith
 15 traditions, learning from one another,
 16 supportive of one another, making a better
 17 future for generations to come.
 18 As members of a common humanity, we
 19 recognize that the impacts of climate change
 20 are now touching the lives of those least
 21 able to adapt. Being part of this effort
 22 offers us the opportunity to care for
 23 creation and put our different faiths into
 24 action in a meaningful way.

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1 Climate cannot wait. As a recent
 2 college graduate I care about the
 3 sustainability of our planet for future
 4 generations. I am from the Shore, Atlantic
 5 City specifically, and I was --
 6 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.
 7 MS. REID: -- I was living there
 8 during very difficult times and have had many
 9 issues within utilities in the past with my
 10 family and those that I love.
 11 As a Baptist and child of God, I
 12 believe that it is our duty as human beings
 13 to protect and care for all human beings;
 14 and that is why we joined with POWER, once
 15 again, to call for PGW to allocate \$500,000
 16 to planning network geothermal pilot
 17 projects. We need you to allocate this in
 18 the next fiscal year. We cannot wait.
 19 Thank you.
 20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.
 21 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next we have
 22 Tammy Murphy.
 23 Ms. Murphy?
 24 MS. MURPHY: Hi. Thank you. I was

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1 trying to unmute. My name is --

2 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Ms. Murphy, one

3 second. Let me start you, please. Thank

4 you.

5 You can begin now.

6 MS. MURPHY: Okay. Thank you.

7 My name is Tammy Murphy and I'm a

8 resident of Philadelphia and a ratepayer and

9 I wanted to (inaudible)...

10 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry,

11 Ms. Murphy; we're not hearing you. Your

12 content is not coming through clearly.

13 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: If you want to

14 check your connection, you can. I have

15 paused your time. I don't want, you know,

16 you to lose time saying what you want to say

17 while you're having tech issues.

18 Can you make sure that everything is

19 okay before you resume so that you don't

20 lose any of your two minutes?

21 THE COURT REPORTER: If you are

22 speaking, we're not hearing you.

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Ms. Murphy,

24 we'll come back to you at the end. We'll

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1 come back to you at the end so you can try to

2 fix your connection. Okay? You'll get your

3 full two minutes when we come back to you.

4 Next we have Shawmar Pitts.

5 Mr. Pitts, are you ready?

6 MR. PITTS: Yes, ma'am. Can you hear

7 me?

8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Yes. You can

9 begin now.

10 MR. PITTS: Thank you.

11 Hi. My name is Shawmar Pitts. I'm

12 from South Philadelphia, a member of Philly

13 Thrive, and I'm glad a few good people went

14 before me because I don't have to reiterate

15 what they said because it's no secret, we

16 know we have to transition away from fossil

17 fuel use.

18 So basically I just want to give

19 everybody a glimpse, let's just say you were

20 a diabetic, and all of a sudden out of

21 nowhere, you loved sweets your whole life

22 and now you're a diabetic and you can't eat

23 sweets no more.

24 So this is the situation we in.

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1 We've been using fossil fuels forever and

2 all of a sudden out of nowhere we find out

3 we can't use them no more; right? And now

4 it's not a secret. It's a consensus.

5 Everybody knows it.

6 So let's take this opportunity and

7 don't miss it. We could be the trailblazers

8 in changing things. Why can't we be the

9 ones that stand up and change?

10 PGW has the capacity to do it. We

11 just have to seize this opportunity and

12 don't let it pass by and don't get caught in

13 your comfort zone and don't want to leave

14 it.

15 And don't try to turn everybody as

16 enemies to one another, saying we don't like

17 the union, we try to take people's jobs.

18 There's plenty of jobs waiting to happen

19 once we transition. We just have to

20 transition justly. And to say that

21 everybody's an enemy to the union who wants

22 to transition is false. So don't bring that

23 false narrative.

24 Let's change this now. We have the

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1 capacity to do it. We know we got the

2 know-how.

3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 15 seconds.

4 MR. PITTS: We know we got the

5 resolve. So let's do it. Let's stop playing

6 games. We should have more than \$500,000 in

7 there for future aspirations of transition.

8 Let's stop playing games. City Council has

9 to make them stop playing games.

10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Pitts,

11 that's your time.

12 MR. PITTS: Thank you so much. Thank

13 you.

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

15 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Next we have

16 Mitch Chanin.

17 MR. CHANIN: Great. Can you hear me?

18 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Yes.

19 MR. CHANIN: Great. My name is --

20 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Chanin, let

21 me start you. I have to --

22 MR. CHANIN: Okay.

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: -- start the

24 timer.

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1 Okay, you may begin now.
 2 MR. CHANIN: Thanks.
 3 My name is Mitch Chanin. I've spoken
 4 before the Commission a number of times in
 5 the past and thanks for the opportunity to
 6 speak today. I'm a resident of Northeast
 7 Philadelphia.
 8 I wanted to go in a slightly
 9 different direction and just say why I think
 10 that POWER's request needs to be honored
 11 today and why I think that the alternative
 12 that has been proposed by the Hearing
 13 Examiners really isn't acceptable.
 14 We really need to move forward as
 15 soon as possible to begin actual pilot
 16 projects that replace fossil fuels with
 17 renewable energy. That is the only viable
 18 path, the network geothermal is the only, of
 19 the three pilots that were named in the
 20 diversification report, that would actually
 21 accomplish that goal in a meaningful way.
 22 And we believe that the amount of
 23 money that has been requested is what is
 24 needed in order to conduct advanced

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1 engineering to plan actual pilot projects to
 2 put infrastructure in the ground.
 3 The alternative that's been proposed,
 4 which is up to \$500,000, may be in the
 5 operating budget to explore in a vague and
 6 undefined way three different pilot project
 7 proposals, two of which don't appear to be
 8 useful.
 9 So I am very concerned it will not be
 10 enough to actually complete the planning for
 11 network geothermal pilot projects in the
 12 following fiscal year.
 13 And so from my perspective it's
 14 important to actually allocate the amount of
 15 money that our expert has identified as
 16 what's needed for this particular project,
 17 which we believe to be the most promising
 18 direction for PGW.
 19 A vaguely defined feasibility
 20 exploration --
 21 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You have 12
 22 seconds, Mr. Chanin.
 23 MR. CHANIN: -- of multiple options in
 24 an operating budget is not an acceptable

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1 alternative.
 2 Thank you very much.
 3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: And -- oh, hold
 4 on -- last we have Reverend Allen Drew. You
 5 did not participate in the poll but just in a
 6 message.
 7 REVEREND DREW: Great. Thank you very
 8 much.
 9 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Reverend Drew,
 10 one second. Let me start the timer for you.
 11 REVEREND DREW: Okay.
 12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You can begin
 13 now.
 14 REVEREND DREW: Great. Thank you.
 15 My name is Allen Drew. I live in
 16 Mt. Airy. I'm an ordained pastor in the
 17 Christian Reformed Church, I work for the
 18 Climate Witness Project, and I'm the
 19 organizer for the Hunting Park Community
 20 Solar Initiative.
 21 I'm joining the call from 34 other
 22 organizations for the City to require PGW to
 23 allocate \$500,000 for planning thermal
 24 network pilot projects.

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1 We need to transform PGW as quickly
 2 as possible into a utility that provides
 3 heating and cooling to Philadelphians
 4 without the fossil fuels that are destroying
 5 a livable climate and we need to ensure
 6 affordable rates while protecting and
 7 creating union jobs as part of that process.
 8 Committing the funds that have been
 9 requested would be a good, though small,
 10 step in the right direction.
 11 Climate change is an emergency and
 12 people who have the least amount of wealth
 13 and power, especially communities of color,
 14 are harmed the most.
 15 The speed at which we replace fossil
 16 fuels with renewable energy will determine
 17 how much harm takes place in the coming
 18 years.
 19 We have less than 20 years to
 20 transition here in Philly if we want to meet
 21 the climate goals of the U.S. and other
 22 countries that have been established.
 23 So budgets are moral documents. A
 24 PGW capital budget that expands fossil fuel

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1 infrastructure and does not include funds to
 2 begin to shift away from fossil fuels is an
 3 immoral document and it's a bad budget from
 4 a business perspective.
 5 PGW cannot survive over the coming
 6 decade if it doesn't transform itself.
 7 PGW's failure would leave behind low-income
 8 residents and workers, like my neighbors in
 9 Hunting Park. We must transition away from
 10 fossil fuels now --
 11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.
 12 REVEREND DREW: -- period. Yeah.
 13 There is no future for PGW as a natural gas
 14 heating and cooling company. It just can't
 15 happen. We need you to stop pretending that
 16 it can.
 17 A need to stop and a way forward is
 18 network geothermal. It will provide a
 19 practical, doable way forward for union jobs
 20 and will help PGW transition into a clean
 21 energy future for our City.
 22 Thank you.
 23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. That is
 24 everyone who indicated that they wanted to

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1 speak.
 2 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ms. McClendon, are we
 3 able to bring in Ms. Murphy?
 4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Oh, my
 5 apologies. I sincerely apologize for that.
 6 Ms. Murphy, were you able to resolve
 7 your issues and can you offer your comments
 8 at this point?
 9 MS. MURPHY: I'll do my best. I'm on
 10 the road so I hope you can hear me.
 11 MR. COZZENS: Also, excuse me.
 12 Ms. McClendon, this is William Cozzens. I
 13 had responded yes on the poll and I do have
 14 prepared remarks and would like to deliver
 15 them if possible. Thank you.
 16 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Yes.
 17 You didn't send your name via the chat.
 18 MR. COZZENS: (Inaudible.)
 19 THE COURT REPORTER: You're on mute,
 20 Mr. Cozzens.
 21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ms. McClendon, if we
 22 can go with Ms. Murphy and then Mr. Cozzens.
 23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Right.
 24 Ms. Murphy, I'm going to go ahead and

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1 start your time now. I'm restarting your
 2 two minutes in light of the difficulties --
 3 MS. MURPHY: Okay. Can everyone hear
 4 me?
 5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: -- you were
 6 having earlier.
 7 You can begin.
 8 MS. MURPHY: Okay. Thank you.
 9 My name is Tammy Murphy. I am the
 10 medical advocacy director with Physicians
 11 for Social Responsibility and I signed onto
 12 the letter and support the request that
 13 POWER has asked of the Commission.
 14 I wanted to talk about this from the
 15 basis of the fact that I grew up in a union
 16 family and when I began my career, I was a
 17 teacher in public school and I was a union
 18 member, and I think that the request that
 19 POWER is making is the best way to protect
 20 the union jobs.
 21 What we have now, hanging onto that,
 22 hanging onto this industry, this fossil fuel
 23 industry, is a way to hang onto the status
 24 quo; but it puts in danger the youth that's

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1 coming up in the union and the young people
 2 that we have in our schools who need the
 3 kind of new energy transition in order to
 4 make it in the future.
 5 They're not going to have fossil
 6 fuels. It's a nonrenewable resource.
 7 Climate change is threatening us. We need
 8 this transition. Children need it and the
 9 young men and women that are part of our
 10 union need this transition. And this is the
 11 way forward.
 12 The request, although small, the
 13 request that POWER made and others in the
 14 letter is the way to go forward.
 15 So thank you.
 16 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you,
 17 Ms. Murphy.
 18 Okay. And then, finally, William
 19 Cozzens.
 20 MR. CLOWNEY: May I briefly interrupt?
 21 I'm David Clowney. I did send a message in
 22 the chat. If you can add me, I'd appreciate
 23 it. I'll understand if you can't, but I do
 24 have prepared remarks.

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1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay, we can
 2 add you.
 3 MR. CLOWNEY: Thank you.
 4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Cozzens --
 5 MR. COZZENS: Yes.
 6 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: -- you can
 7 begin now.
 8 MR. COZZENS: Thank you very much.
 9 Good morning. I'm Bill Cozzens. I'm
 10 a resident of the Mt. Airy section of
 11 Philadelphia and today I'm speaking on
 12 behalf of Pennsylvania Interfaith Power &
 13 Light. And Amani Reid has already
 14 introduced our organization, so I won't
 15 repeat that.
 16 I would like to focus on one aspect
 17 of the energy transition that has not been
 18 addressed this morning. That is the social
 19 and racial justice impact of not
 20 transitioning off of fossil gas.
 21 In the near future the Federal
 22 Government is likely to offer tax credits to
 23 households that reduce their fossil fuel use
 24 through electrification, heat pumps for

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1 heating and cooling, induction cooktops,
 2 heat pump water heaters, and other such
 3 devices.
 4 Middle- and higher-income households
 5 will be the ones who can afford to take
 6 advantage of such tax credits.
 7 Gas consumption will drop. PGW's
 8 fixed costs will be spread over a shrinking
 9 volume of gas, meaning gas sales. To cover
 10 these fixed costs PGW will have to increase
 11 its delivery rates.
 12 With higher-income households using
 13 less gas or no gas at all, the poor people
 14 of Philadelphia will be left holding the
 15 bag, households and landlords -- excuse
 16 me --
 17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.
 18 MR. COZZENS: Thank you -- that cannot
 19 afford to electrify. These higher rates will
 20 reinforce the energy burden and poverty in
 21 Philadelphia. You'll see rising inability to
 22 pay and higher bill delinquency.
 23 Providing funding now to plan one or
 24 more network geothermal pilot projects will

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1 enable the transition and this will avoid
 2 saddling our low-income households with
 3 higher and higher gas rate for heating and
 4 other uses.
 5 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Cozzens,
 6 that's your time.
 7 MR. COZZENS: Thank you.
 8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: And, last,
 9 because we are getting close to an hour,
 10 Mr. David Clowney.
 11 MR. CLOWNEY: Thank you. Can you see
 12 me? Can you hear me?
 13 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Yes, we can
 14 hear you. You can begin now.
 15 MR. CLOWNEY: Okay. Thank you.
 16 I'm David Clowney. I'm a member of
 17 St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in the
 18 Northeast, a Mt. Airy resident, and a PGW
 19 ratepayer, and I urge you to shape PGW's
 20 budget to meet community and planetary needs
 21 by requiring the commitment of this \$500,000
 22 for planning geothermal pilot projects.
 23 We live in an environmental crisis in
 24 which business as usual is already producing

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1 shocking disasters. Who would have thought
 2 you could paddle a canoe up Main Street in
 3 Manayunk last year, but it happened.
 4 And I know floods have happened
 5 before, but they happen way more often, and
 6 fires and other disasters with more lives
 7 lost because of climate change. And we know
 8 that from the U.N. reports and I don't need
 9 to repeat what others have said.
 10 But we citizens can't do it by
 11 ourselves. Our elected representatives can
 12 pass laws to make it happen, and you are
 13 some of our elected representatives and I
 14 hope that you will.
 15 But utilities like PGW also have to
 16 change. It takes courage to walk away from
 17 conservative business as usual, which in the
 18 past might have been what was called for.
 19 But right now crises demand something
 20 different and the first step is the hardest,
 21 but you can do it.
 22 Network geothermal will provide a way
 23 for residents, especially low-income
 24 residents, as has just been mentioned, to

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1 heat and cool their homes without emitting
 2 any greenhouse gas. And it will be a way
 3 for PGW to begin transitioning itself --
 4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.
 5 MR. COZZENS: Thank you -- into a part
 6 of the new green economy, new green energy
 7 economy, that Philadelphians need, want, and
 8 deserve.
 9 Thank you.
 10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.
 11 That is everyone, Chairman.
 12 MR. WINSLOW: Excuse me. Chairman
 13 Green?
 14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.
 15 MR. WINSLOW: Chairman Green, this is
 16 Peter Winslow. If I may speak for just a
 17 moment, you've heard --
 18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Wait. Hold on.
 19 Mr. Winslow, hold on, hold on.
 20 Earlier, you know, we did put in the
 21 guidance in reference to asking people to
 22 speak. I do see that Ms. Libbey and you,
 23 Mr. Winslow, have put information requesting
 24 to speak.

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1 We have made multiple last calls.
 2 This is the last call for people to speak.
 3 If you have not put it into the chat
 4 feature, as we instructed earlier, we are
 5 going to move forward.
 6 So now, Ms. McClendon, if you can set
 7 a timer up, we're going to have Mr. Winslow
 8 and then Ms. Libbey, and then we will
 9 proceed with the hearing.
 10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.
 11 Mr. Winslow, you can begin.
 12 MR. WINSLOW: Thank you.
 13 Peter Winslow, resident of Northwest
 14 Philadelphia. Just one observation and a
 15 question: Everybody who has spoken so far
 16 has spoken essentially about the same issue,
 17 requesting that there be an addition to or
 18 an adjustment to the budget to allow for
 19 network geothermal to go forward.
 20 I would request that you,
 21 Mr. Chairman, or PGW respond to this so that
 22 we don't have just a one-way conversation.
 23 We could get hundreds of people to come to
 24 the microphone and basically support this.

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1 We've heard nothing to the contrary.
 2 So so that it's not a monologue of
 3 the people to you, I would request that
 4 there be a response from PGW or from the Gas
 5 Commission.
 6 Thank you.
 7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.
 8 Ms. McClendon, are you ready for
 9 Ms. Libbey?
 10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Yes.
 11 Ms. Libbey?
 12 MS. LIBBEY: I just wanted to put in
 13 a personal --
 14 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Ms. Libbey, one
 15 second. Let me start your time.
 16 You can begin now.
 17 MS. LIBBEY: I just wanted to add a
 18 personal comment as someone who makes --
 19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Please
 20 introduce yourself.
 21 MS. LIBBEY: Patricia Libbey. I live
 22 in Roxborough.
 23 As someone who makes very little
 24 income and who used to be paying last summer

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1 \$92 a month and it shot up to \$124 now, and
 2 I go with Energy Co-op and complained to
 3 them and they said, oh, they couldn't do
 4 anything about it, it's State and City
 5 limits, blah, blah, blah, I would definitely
 6 request that you do everything possible to
 7 reduce our gas prices. We do not deserve
 8 this. So many of us cannot afford this.
 9 Thank you.
 10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you,
 11 Ms. Libbey.
 12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.
 13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Earlier Mr. Berry
 14 from the Philadelphia Gas Works wanted to
 15 make a statement.
 16 Mr. Berry, are you ready to proceed
 17 with your statement?
 18 MR. BERRY: Yes. Thank you, Chairman.
 19 I want to thank all of the members of
 20 the public who came out today to
 21 participate. I know it's difficult
 22 sometimes to take time out of our lives to
 23 participate in important civic functions
 24 like the Gas Commission.

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1 I just want to explain that PGW fully
 2 supports the \$500,000 recommendation for
 3 geothermal and will be addressing it in our
 4 upcoming operating budget.
 5 The operating budget is generally
 6 filed at the beginning of May and it has the
 7 same effective date for the funds, fiscal
 8 year 2023, as the capital budget that's
 9 before the Commission today.
 10 Again, I want to thank you all for
 11 your time and enthusiasm in getting involved
 12 in these important energy issues.
 13 Thank you.
 14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And, Mr. Berry, just
 15 to clarify, so the capital budget and also
 16 the operating budget both start September 1
 17 of 2022?
 18 MR. BERRY: That's correct,
 19 Mr. Chairman.
 20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. And you have
 21 provided as information to the Gas Commission
 22 as part of your operating budget for FY '23
 23 an inclusion of \$500,000 to address these
 24 issues.

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1 MR. BERRY: Yes. We will address the
 2 recommendation in the Recommended Decision
 3 for \$500,000 as part of our operating budget.
 4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I know part of
 5 the Diversification Study comes up and we
 6 will have additional conversation regarding
 7 the Diversification Study. What if the cost
 8 for the investigation of the various pilots
 9 is more than \$500,000? What steps can PGW
 10 take to address that issue?
 11 MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, as you know,
 12 through the budget process PGW and the Gas
 13 Commission will work together based on any
 14 RFPs that we receive and we can always seek
 15 modification if a cost issue comes up.
 16 But based on information at this
 17 point, I don't believe that will be an
 18 issue. But it's hard to predict the future.
 19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And then one last
 20 question: Why is the perspective to include
 21 this funding as part of an operations budget
 22 as opposed to a capital budget?
 23 MR. BERRY: Just because it is PGW's
 24 position that until we commit to moving

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1 forward with specific infrastructure in the
 2 ground, the cost of the studies are more
 3 appropriately addressed in the operating
 4 budget, and they can become capital assets as
 5 part of subsequent infrastructure projects or
 6 pilot projects that would actually be
 7 implemented in a geothermal system, if that
 8 were the result of the study.
 9 But that's all speculative at this
 10 point. It's just a budgeting issue that
 11 they can transition from one budget to the
 12 next depending on the outcomes of the study.
 13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.
 14 MS. GREENBERG: Is it possible --
 15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you,
 16 Mr. Berry.
 17 MS. GREENBERG: -- to ask a question?
 18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ms. Greenberg, this
 19 is a Commission hearing. The way the process
 20 works, it's not a back-and-forth engagement
 21 in a hearing.
 22 We had an opportunity for those who
 23 wanted to provide testimony to provide
 24 testimony earlier, which I did provide that

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1 opportunity for everyone that wanted to make
 2 a statement, and that's why I asked one last
 3 time is there an opportunity for anyone else
 4 who would like to make a statement and at
 5 that point there was not additional requests
 6 from you or others to make additional
 7 statements.
 8 As Chair, as a member of the
 9 Commission, I'm asking questions to the
 10 witness, which is the process for these
 11 types of hearings.
 12 So at this point we're now going to
 13 move forward into the rest of the hearing.
 14 I would like, Commissioner Brown, if
 15 you have any additional comments, or if
 16 Mr. White has any additional comments on
 17 behalf of the City Controller.
 18 COMMISSIONER BROWN: (Inaudible.)
 19 THE COURT REPORTER: Mr. Brown, you're
 20 muted.
 21 COMMISSIONER BROWN: None from me.
 22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And Mr. White on
 23 behalf of City Controller Rhynhart?
 24 ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: No, I

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1 have no comment.
 2 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.
 3 All right. Thank you, both, if you
 4 have no other comments.
 5 At this point I would like to thank
 6 the Commissioners and the public for their
 7 testimony and their presentations. We
 8 appreciate your participation as we
 9 deliberate on PGW's budget.
 10 All of the identified exhibits will
 11 be entered into the record of this meeting.
 12 This matter is now before us for action. I
 13 call on Commissioner Gene Brown for a
 14 recommendation and motion.
 15 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you.
 16 My Motion is set out in a written
 17 document with two appendices and I ask that
 18 it be marked and entered into the record as
 19 Gas Commission Exhibit #4.)
 20 - - -
 21 (Whereupon Gas Commission Exhibit #4
 22 was marked for identification purposes.)
 23 - - -
 24 COMMISSIONER BROWN: A draft was

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1 circulated to Commissioners in advance of
 2 this meeting. This Motion was distributed to
 3 the participants electronically prior to the
 4 start of this meeting.
 5 The Recommended Decision suggested
 6 line item adjustments, reporting
 7 requirements, and several other actions. I
 8 would like to thank Commission Staff and the
 9 participants for their work to narrow the
 10 areas of disagreement in this budget
 11 proceeding.
 12 To summarize, PGW's initial budget
 13 request was for \$190.228 million.
 14 In the April 1st Recommended Decision
 15 the Hearing Examiners recommended
 16 \$2.875 million in downward adjustments to
 17 PGW's proposed budget.
 18 The Hearing Examiners also
 19 recommended rejection of POWER's proposal to
 20 add up to \$500,000 to PGW's capital budget
 21 for a potential thermal network project.
 22 POWER took exception to Staff's
 23 rejection of its request. This is discussed
 24 in greater detail in my written Motion.

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1 Neither PGW nor the Public Advocate
 2 filed comments or exceptions to the
 3 Recommended Decision.
 4 After reviewing the Recommended
 5 Decision along with POWER's exception, I am
 6 persuaded that POWER's exception should be
 7 rejected.
 8 I would like to highlight that the
 9 Hearing Examiners recommended that this
 10 Commission strongly urge PGW to include in
 11 its Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget up to
 12 \$500,000 funding for consulting expenses to
 13 explore three pilot programs consistent with
 14 the Diversification Study, one of which is a
 15 thermal network.
 16 I would also like to highlight that
 17 PGW's operating budget and capital budget
 18 both begin September 1, so including the
 19 funds in the operating budget would not
 20 delay investigation of the feasibility of
 21 these proposed pilot projects. Again, this
 22 is thoroughly detailed in my written Motion.
 23 Accordingly, I move that we adopt the
 24 Recommended Decision in full and:

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1 1. Reject PGW's Fiscal Year 2023
 2 Capital Budget proposal of \$190,228,000 as
 3 filed on January 3, 2022.
 4 2. Accept the line item adjustments
 5 to PGW's filed Fiscal Year 2023 Capital
 6 Budget proposal set forth and explained in
 7 Appendix #1 of my Motion and endorse a
 8 Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget in the
 9 not-to-exceed amount of \$187,353,000.
 10 3. Recommend that City Council
 11 approve a Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget in
 12 the not-to-exceed amount of \$187,353,000
 13 incorporating the line item adjustments to
 14 the filed budget proposal set out in my
 15 Appendix #1.
 16 This budget would be comprised of
 17 \$174,938,000 in spending authority available
 18 to PGW for purposes of expenditure and/or
 19 commitment at the start of the fiscal year
 20 on September 1, 2023, subject to the
 21 limitations stated in the budget ordinance;
 22 and \$12,415,000 in conditional spending
 23 authority which would require the Gas
 24 Commission's release approval prior to

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1 commitment and/or expenditure.
 2 4. Adopt the Capital Program
 3 Protocols as set forth in Appendix #2.
 4 5. Recommend that Council's approval
 5 of the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget be
 6 conditioned on PGW's adherence to these
 7 Protocols, set forth in Appendix #2, and
 8 that Council's budget approval be subject to
 9 the constraints and conditions detailed
 10 therein, incorporating the line item
 11 transfer authority described in the
 12 Protocols.
 13 6. Recommend that City Council
 14 acknowledge receipt of PGW's Revised
 15 Forecast of Capital Budgets for Fiscal Year
 16 2024 through Fiscal Year 2028 as an
 17 informational filing.
 18 7. Direct PGW to submit a compliance
 19 capital budget proposal by no later than
 20 seven calendar days of the Commission
 21 meeting at which final action is taken on
 22 the proposed budget, reflecting the line
 23 item adjustments and spending authority
 24 referenced in Appendix #1 to the Motion,

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1 including an appropriately revised financing
 2 plan and a revised forecast of capital
 3 budgets.
 4 8. Direct PGW to submit a revised
 5 DBE participation forecast reflecting the
 6 compliance budget by no later than seven
 7 calendar days after the Commission meeting
 8 at which final action is taken on the
 9 proposed budget.
 10 9. Order PGW to submit its fiscal
 11 year 2024 DBE forecast concurrent with the
 12 Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget filing.
 13 10. Direct PGW to notify the
 14 Commission immediately if it learns of
 15 delays to the implementation of CIS
 16 requiring additional funding.
 17 11. Approve a 36-month lifespan for
 18 PGW's LNG cold box line item.
 19 12. Approve PGW's reauthorization
 20 requests for the following three FY 2021
 21 line items:
 22 1. Mobile Equipment Replacement;
 23 2. 800 Building Restroom
 24 Renovations; and

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1 3. Isolate Piping in #77 Building
 2 Basement.
 3 13. Take such other actions as are
 4 detailed in the written Motion.
 5 That concludes my Motion.
 6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Vice
 7 Chairman Brown.
 8 Is there a second to the motion?
 9 ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Second.
 10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It has been moved and
 11 properly seconded. I will now call for the
 12 question.
 13 All those in favor of the motion
 14 please signify by saying aye?
 15 Aye.
 16 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Aye.
 17 ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Aye.
 18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Those opposed?
 19 ---
 20 (No response.)
 21 ---
 22 (Whereupon the motion was unanimously
 23 carried.)
 24 ---

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1 Reported By: Susan Marie Migatz, RMR, CRR
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1 ---

2 INDEX

3 ---

4 PHILADELPHIA GAS COMMISSION EXHIBITS

5 NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
6 Exhibit #1	Agenda	8
7 Exhibit #2	Recommended Decision	11
8 Exhibit #3	Briefing Guide	12
9 Exhibit #4	Motion	54

10 ---

11 PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS EXHIBITS

12 NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
13 Exhibit #1	Brief, 3/18/22	10

14 ---

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE EXHIBITS

16 NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
17 Exhibit #1	Brief, 3/18/22	10

18 ---

19 POWER EXHIBITS

20 NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
21 Exhibit #1	Brief, 3/18/22	10
22 Exhibit #2	Exceptions to Recommended Decision, 4/8/22	11

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