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2	PHILADELPHIA GAS COMMISSION
3	
4	PGW'S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026
	OPERATING BUDGET
5	
6	
	August 12, 2025
7	10:08 a.m.
8	
9	Hybrid Meeting held on the
	18th Floor - 1515 Arch Street
10	and Virtually via Teams
11	
12	BEFORE: CHRISTY BRADY, Chairwoman
13	MIKE DRISCOLL
Ι3	EVAN URBANIA (Via Teams) DOMINIC McGRAW
14	BILL RUBIN, Alternate
1 1	Commissioners
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21	
22	
23	
	VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS
24	MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION

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1	APPEARANCES:
2	TAMBO O KRITERE DOO
3	JAMES C. KELLETT, ESQ.
3	Deputy City Solicitor Counsel to Philadelphia Gas Commission
4	Counsel to Philadelphia Gas Commission
4	ANDRE C. DASENT, ESQ. (Via Teams)
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J	Counsel to Philadelphia Gas Works
6	counsel to initadelphia das works
Ü	COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.
7	BY: ROBERT W. BALLENGER, ESQ. (Via Teams)
•	VIKRAM PATEL, ESQ. (Via Teams)
8	Counsel to Public Advocate
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	PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGC:
10	
11	GEMELA N. McCLENDON, ESQ.
	Executive Director
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	HEIDI L. WUSHINSKE, ESQ.
13	Hearing Examiner
14	ROSLYN BELL, ESQ.
	Hearing Examiner
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1.	ANNA M. CORRADO ROWE
16	Senior Analyst
17	TIMOTHY MURTHA
18	Financial Analyst/Internal Auditor
Τ0	SANDRA FONTANEZ (Via Teams)
19	Administrative Assistant
20	naminiberative hisbibeane
21	
22	
23	
24	

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1	PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGW:
2	
	ROBERT HOAGLUND, ESQUIRE (Via Teams)
3	Senior Attorney
4	WILLIAM J. GALLAGHER
	Vice President, Budget and Strategic
5	Development
6	SHAWN M. MURRAY (Via Teams)
	Director, Resource Management Technology
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	KELLY A. DeLUSSEY SCHREIBER (Via Teams)
8	Director, Resource Management
9	CARITA COUNCIL (Via Teams)
	Senior Budget Analyst, Finance
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	IMAN HILL (Via Teams)
11	Budget Analyst, Finance
12	DOUG BALMER (Via Teams)
	Budget Analyst, Finance
13	
14	
	PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY CONTROLLER:
15	
16	FRANK IANNUZZI
17	DDECEME ON DELIALE OF DOMED INMEDIATION.
18	PRESENT ON BEHALF OF POWER INTERFAITH:
10 19	DEVIN McDOUGALL, ESQ. (Via Teams)
20	CELINE BUSNELLI (Via Teams)
20	Litigation Assistant
21	
22	
23	
24	

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1 2	PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA:
3	DEPARTMENT OF STREETS:
	KRISTIN DEL ROSSI (Via Teams)
4 5	OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS:
6 7	MEGAN M. CLARKIN (Via Teams)
8 9 10	OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE: TAMMY LEE (Via Teams)
11	OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY:
12	ANNA SHUGOLL
13	CHARLOTTE SHADE (Via Teams)
14	KATHERINE LEONETTI (Via Teams)
15	LIZ LANKENAU
16	LIZZIE DIACIK
17	NITHI KRISCHEN
18	OLIVIA GARCIA
	SHOSHANNA BRICKLIN (Via Teams)
19	ZACH LYTLE
20	
2 2 2 3	
24	

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1 2	PRESENT	ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC: (Via Zoom)
		BRIAN DRIES
3		CELINE WATKO (Via Teams)
4		CELINE WAIRO (VIA TEAMS)
		JORDAN TEICHER (Via Teams)
5		KAREN MELTON
6		RAREN MEDION
_		LINNEA BOND (Via Teams)
7		MITCH CHANIN
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9		PETER FURCHT (Via Teams)
J		STEVE GREENSPAN
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EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: PGW filed an

FY 2026 Non-Fuel Operating Expense Budget of \$329.672 million.

After the Hearing Examiners' review and due diligence, with the participation of the Public Advocate and PGW, as well as a public hearing held on June 24, 2025, a Recommended Decision was issued on July 15, 2025.

In it the Hearing Examiners recommended that the Gas Commission reject PGW's Operating Budget as filed and, instead, adopt an FY 2026 Budget of Non-Fuel Operating Expenses in a not-to-exceed amount of \$328.819 million.

Of this amount, \$326.363 million would reflect spending authority available to PGW for the purposes of expenditure and/or commitment at the start of the fiscal year on September 1, 2025; and \$2.456 million would require the Commission's release and approval upon the satisfaction of certain conditions prior to commitment and/or expenditure.

Both PGW and the Public Advocate

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offered objections to the Hearing Examiners' recommendations, which both will detail momentarily.

I would like to thank both for their hard work and cooperation in positioning this matter before the Commission to vote upon at this meeting.

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: Thank you.

We would like to provide the participants with an opportunity to make a brief presentation before we call the question to vote.

First we will hear from PGW, Mr. Dasent.

MR. DASENT: Good morning, Madam Chairman. Andre Dasent for PGW.

We disagree with the PGC Staff.

EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Dasent,
I'm sorry; if you could give us a moment. I
apologize for the delay. I think virtual
participants may be having some -- well, let
me ask the question: It's my understanding
that Mr. Ballenger is having some difficulty

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CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: Good morning.

Yes, I can.

MR. DASENT: Good morning.

EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay,

Mr. Dasent, you can proceed.

MR. DASENT: With your permission, Andre Dasent for Philadelphia Gas Works.

We have three issues that we disagree with the PGC Staff on: excess liability insurance, Gas Processing purchased services, and customer programs.

Let me emphasize excess liability insurance because of the requirements that we maintain this mandatory coverage pursuant to the Management Agreement.

In this particular budget we have \$5.045 million for excess liability insurance coverage. This year's budget reasonably reflects higher costs because the insurance market conditions are such that we expect a higher premium than the prior year. The anticipated increase is about \$1.019 million above fiscal 2025.

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PGW submits and needs full and immediate coverage for the full amount of the budgeted coverage because we need to go in the market, secure coverage, and have that come to a conclusion before

September 1, 2025. That's the end of our term. We're hopeful that can happen in the easiest way possible.

The Company's insurance must be in place by 9/1/2025 to avoid gaps in coverage. So immediate spending authority is our preference. We did suggest in our Exceptions that there may be a way, a workaround, for that, by suggesting a letter notification once we have secured or made the selection of an insurance provider, with the name of the provider and a quote.

If that's the limit of our notification, that allows the Commission to have oversight but at the same time not impede a process that's going on right now, incidentally, and we're trying to get it to a conclusion before 9/1/2025.

So with your indulgence on that

point, that alternative language that we suggest, we think that would be an appropriate workaround for excess liability insurance coverage.

We have other items also that we disagree, Gas Processing purchased services, for example; but we believe there are workarounds that are implicit in the budget, because let's say if lightning strikes or there's an incident or a forced outage, the Management Agreement allows us to alert you to the fact that that's occurring and to proceed with repairs.

So we believe that even though we disagree with that particular finding, that if an emergency strikes, we will be able to act appropriately.

With customer programs we have also disagreement with respect to conditional funding, which we think is overbroad because our Senior Vice President testified to the fact that we need funding for certain areas, including universal service evaluation, consulting services for Regulatory Affairs,

and a temporary health contractor. That testimony was uncontroverted in the record.

As a consequence we believe that there is support for what we are doing. In the event that a letter notification again is required, we suggest in the alternative notification of the extent of any limitation on spending in this area because, for example, if the PUC orders us to spend money concerning universal service evaluation in their final order in the PUC proceeding, we would like to be able to proceed with that with dispatch and meet all our regulatory requirements.

We also have an issue with Special Legal, but we actually agree with the Hearing Officers on this and so we hope that the Commission will adopt our reasoning as stated in our Exception -- actually in our Brief -- concerning Special Legal.

That expenditure is sort of ongoing, it's a unique animal in the budget, just because you're anticipating the actions of adversaries, anticipating regulatory

1 matters, anticipating litigation, and it's 2 difficult to do that with precision. can't do it on an average. It's based upon a different set of circumstances each year. So we're hopeful that the Commission 5 will sustain the Hearing Officers' 6 7 determination on that point, and that's all I have. Thank you so much for this 8 9 opportunity to speak. 10 CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: Thank you, 11 Mr. Dasent. Mr. Ballenger, are there any 12 13 statements on behalf of the Advocate? MR. BALLENGER: Yes. Good morning, 14 15 Chair and members of the Gas Commission. 16 CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: Good morning. 17 MR. BALLENGER: I'm Robert Ballenger, 18

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MR. BALLENGER: I'm Robert Ballenger, an attorney at Community Legal Services serving as Public Advocate in the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget Proceeding.

Before I address the exceptions, I would like to welcome Commissioner McGraw on behalf of the Public Advocate and share a few words about the importance of the Gas

1 Commission.

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Each Gas Commissioner has responsibilities to PGW, to its customers, and to the current and future citizens of Philadelphia.

We, the participants and Commission Staff, try to find ways to narrow controversy and reach agreement on matters in a way that balances the competing interests of all of those groups.

But when that doesn't happen, it's the five Gas Commissioners who are responsible for choosing what you think is right.

We may not always agree with you, but we appreciate your service and the role you play in overseeing PGW for the benefit of its customers and the future of Philadelphia.

So, again, welcome, Commissioner

McGraw. We look forward to working with you and we're glad to have you here.

With that, I want to take a couple minutes and explain why you should deny

PGW's Exceptions and grant the Public
Advocate's Exception. I'll address PGW's
first and the Public Advocate's second.

The Hearing Examiners recommended slightly more than \$1 million of PGW's anticipated costs for excess liability insurance be approved on a conditional basis. If you approve that recommendation, those dollars would be available to PGW but only if it actually needs them, and that's the crux of the issue.

The reason for conditional funding is that PGW doesn't know what the policy will actually cost. As we've underscored in our Brief and our Exceptions, placeholders, amounts that are not necessary for identified and quantified expenses, inflate the Operating Budget and can result in PGW customer funds being used for other purposes.

So until PGW knows the actual cost, it's appropriate that the Commission conditionally approve the budget given the likelihood that PGW's estimate is

1 overstated.

So we disagree with PGW's Exception and request that you approve the recommended conditional funding.

That said, we would accept PGW's recommendation that conditional funding be released upon PGW's notification, including the name of the provider and the full policy cost, and of course the funding would only be released to the extent necessary to fund that policy.

PGW also excepts to the Hearing
Examiners' \$800,000 reduction of the Gas
Processing Department's purchased services
expense and there are two main reasons why
the Commission should deny PGW's Exception.

First, we submitted and the Hearing Examiners agreed that this area of PGW's budget was not developed using the methodology approved and used for other departments under PGW's own budget preparation guidance. PGW does not contest that in its Exceptions.

Second, the amount of the adjustment

is based on the most reliable recent spending history because it uses the most recent three years that were not impacted by PGW's costly LNG tank repainting project.

That average amount, appropriately escalated for inflation, is the amount suggested by the Advocate and approved by the Hearing Examiners.

Contrary to PGW's Exception, PGW's spending data and inflation adjustment factor are well-documented and more than sufficient to justify the Hearing Examiners' recommendation. So for these reasons PGW's Exception should be denied.

Finally, PGW excepts to the conditional funding recommendations regarding customer programs. Again, the Hearing Examiners' recommendations should be approved because if PGW needs the funds, they are in the budget, they are available to it.

The Public Advocate identified this area as having excessive placeholder spending authority that is routinely not

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utilized for the purposes identified. We urge the Commission to actually reduce the budget.

But the Hearing Examiners recommend a middle ground approach of conditional funding. While we would have preferred a downward adjustment, conditional funding is clearly appropriate. It is a recommendation that reflects the historical underspending and uncertainty as to whether PGW will need the funds.

In contrast, the Public Advocate has submitted one Exception that you should approve. We excepted to the recommendation to deny a \$1,333,000 adjustment to PGW's Special Legal budget.

It is unreasonable not to make that adjustment because PGW's spending in this area is consistently and significantly underbudget year after year and it would be irresponsible not to deal with the fact that PGW will have excessive spending authority in this area again and able to use customer dollars for other unrelated purposes.

If it were an unpredictable area of the budget, as PGW and the Hearing Examiners contend, there would be some evidence of that, but there's not.

As we stated, there has been no occasion over 25 years in which matters involving PGW have required expenditure in excess of the Special Legal budget, and in many years the spending does not even approximate the amount approved in the budget.

So the Commission should not allow PGW to maintain placeholder authority it just doesn't need just because it's in a category that uses the word "special." As much as I like to think lawyers are special, I have to admit we're really not.

PGW's lawyers provide a service for a fee. That doesn't justify PGW's excessive budget spending authorization. So you should approve the downward expense adjustment of \$1,333,000 as we recommend in this area.

Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: Thank you, 2 Mr. Ballenger. 3 Mr. Ballenger and Mr. Dasent, I would kindly ask that in the future, if you could possibly appear in person, as possible, as 5 6 the Company and Advocate. We want to make 7 sure that you don't have any technical 8 issues that wouldn't allow for you to be 9 heard. Next we will take brief comments from 10 11 members of the public. Comments will be 12 limited to three minutes and should be on 13 the topic of PGW's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 14 Operating Budget. 15 I'll turn it over to Executive Director McClendon to coordinate this 16 17 process. 18 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Are 19 there any members of the public in the room 20 with us today that would like to comment on 2.1 the Operating Budget? 22 Right now we're only taking comments 2.3 on the Operating Budget.

Okay. Mr. Chanin, if you could step

1 forward to the table, sit before the 2 microphone, please provide your name. noted by the Chair, you will have three minutes to offer. I will let you know when you can begin speaking. Okay? 5 6 MR. CHANIN: Thank you. 7 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Please introduce yourself first so that doesn't cut 8 9 into your three minutes. Thanks. Mitch Chanin. 10 MR. CHANIN: 11 I live in the 19116 Zip code, PGW ratepayer. 12 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You may begin. 13 MR. CHANIN: Great. Thanks very much 14 for the opportunity to speak today. 15 The organization that I work with, POWER Interfaith, was not able to be an 16 17 official intervenor in this proceeding because we were using our resources to be 18 19 part of the PGW rate case before the PUC this time, but I did want to raise a couple 20 2.1 of issues. 22 First, as was reported by WHYY 2.3 earlier in the year, an organization that

PGW funds through its Operating Budget, the

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American Public Gas Association, has been using its funds to lobby against clean energy programs that were approved under the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, working to claw back essential building electrification investments, which is expressly against the interests of the City of Philadelphia, the City's climate goals, PGW's own commitment to carbon neutrality; and, as we've raised in past years, I believe that PGW should not be funding these trade associations that are misusing our funds in ways that do not reflect the values of this Commission and of our City.

Second, I will say -- if this is off topic, please feel free to cut me off, but -- three years ago funding was approved for the geothermal project and the Commission declined to require robust reporting and public engagement because the Commission at that time said they expected PGW would just do that of its own free will.

In my opinion, that has not happened.

We have received only the barest minimum bits of information about what's going on.

I am unclear as to whether the RFP that was issued earlier this year to provide for a second phase of the study is part of the Operating Budget. Pardon my ignorance on that matter.

But three years after the initial \$500,000 were approved, we don't know what's happened with that money and there's really almost no -- we are glad that PGW is moving forward with an evaluation of a potential geothermal pilot project, but we understand almost nothing about the criteria they're using to evaluate it, why that site was chosen, what's happening with the contract. There's been really no meaningful information provided other than an RFP and a press release. So I --

EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

MR. CHANIN: Yep. So I really hope that the Commission will require robust public engagement and real transparency about a really critical project that we're

Thank you.

MS. BOND:

1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: If you could 2 appear on camera, please, if possible. 3 MS. BOND: Good morning. EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Please introduce yourself. After you've introduced 5 yourself, I will begin your three minutes. 6 7 MS. BOND: My name is Linnea Bond. 8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. You may 9 begin now. MS. BOND: Good morning. Thank you 10 11 to the Commission. I agree with Mr. Chanin's concerns 12 13 and I just want to state generally that I'm 14 concerned about operating budgets that 15 entrench us in the same long-term planning that we have been, which yearly scientists 16 17 tell us is leading us in a direction that is 18 unsustainable for our planet, and I remain 19 concerned about the lack of change from that course as we're screaming about that issue 20 2.1 and, yeah, I look forward to some serious

I also appreciate Mr. Ballenger's comments about the need to look at how

course direction.

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1	spending has happened in the past and ensure
2	that the funds that we budget for PGW go to
3	the places that they should and where they
4	need to go.
5	That's all. Thank you.
6	EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.
7	There's no one else.
8	CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: Okay. Thank you.
9	Are there any comments or questions
10	from any of the Commissioners at this point?
11	
12	(No response.)
13	
14	CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: Thank you all very
15	much. We appreciate your participation as
16	we deliberate on PGW's budget.
17	All the identified exhibits will be
18	entered into the record of this meeting.
19	This matter is now before us for action.
20	Is there a motion to approve PGW's
21	Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget?
22	COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: So moved.
23	CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: Do we have a
24	second to the motion?

	Page 29
1	COMMISSIONER McGRAW: Second.
2	CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: It has been moved
3	and properly seconded.
4	Is there any discussion?
5	
6	(No response.)
7	
8	CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: All in favor of
9	the motion?
10	COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Aye.
11	COMMISSIONER McGRAW: Aye.
12	COMMISSIONER URBANIA: Aye,
13	affirmative.
14	CHAIRWOMAN BRADY: Aye.
15	No opposition.
16	The motion is approved.
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18	(Whereupon the motion was unanimously
19	carried.)
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21	Reported by: Susan Marie Migatz, RMR, CRR
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