



March 4, 2025

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Jennifer Berrier, Executive Director
Commonwealth Keystone Building
2nd Floor, Room-N201
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Director Berrier:

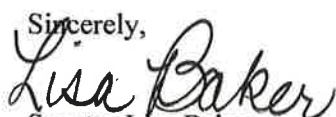
The customers of Pike County Light and Power are naturally quite alarmed by the substantial rate increase requests filed by the utility for natural gas and electricity. Given the cost pressures that families are already facing on everything from groceries to health care, the widespread concern is highly understandable. We want to make certain the commissioners are fully aware of the customer opposition to these hikes, and the negative implications they also hold for schools, local governments, community organizations, and commercial enterprises in the service territory.


The Office of Consumer Advocate has filed formal complaints providing details of the challenges based on law and fairness, so we do not need to reiterate those points. These filings will certainly be underscored by the testimony the commission will receive during the upcoming public hearings. As you realize from long experience, people are hoping these hearings will be serious listening sessions, rather than just a legal formality.

What is difficult for customers to understand is why such a substantial increase is believed to be necessary and justified in an era when natural gas production has made our commonwealth a leader among states. While not quite as large, the increase for electric customers still constitutes a large jump.

As we have seen, taxpayers are increasingly demanding that governments at every level explore ways to cut costs and achieve greater cost efficiency. It is reasonable to expect they seek to have public utilities subject to the same test.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and consideration of these comments as you review these requests, assemble a public record of comment, and reach a determination that fairly balances reliable energy provision with the economic implications for customers and communities.

Sincerely,

Senator Lisa Baker
20th Senatorial District


Representative Jeffrey H. Olsommer
139th Legislative District