

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase by Peoples
Gas System, Inc.

DOCKET NO. 20250029-GU
ORDER NO. PSC-2025-0313-PCO-GU
ISSUED: August 20, 2025

SECOND ORDER MODIFYING ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURE

I. Case Background

On March 31, 2025, Peoples Gas System, Inc. (PGS or Utility) filed its petition for a base rate increase along with minimum filing requirement schedules and testimony supporting the request. By Order No. PSC-2025-0123-PCO-GU,¹ a final administrative hearing was scheduled for September 8-11, 2025.

Intervention by the Citizens of the State of Florida through the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) was acknowledged by Order No. PSC-2025-0036-PCO-GU, issued February 3, 2025. The Florida Industrial Power Users Group's (FIPUG) petition for intervention was granted by Order PSC-2025-0146-PCO-GU, issued April 24, 2025. No other parties intervened.

On August 6, 2025, PGS filed a Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule (Motion to Suspend). In the Motion to Suspend, the Utility represented that they had reached a comprehensive, unanimous agreement in principle and requested that the Commission "suspend[] all pending hearings, deadlines, and other matters in this docket pending the Parties' submission of a formal Settlement Agreement that resolves all disputed issues." OPC and FIPUG supported the Motion to Suspend. By Order No. PSC-2025-0299-PCO-GU (Suspension Order), the Motion to Suspend was granted and the controlling dates were suspended.

On August 13, 2025, PGS, OPC, and FIPUG (collectively, the Parties) filed a Joint Motion for Approval of 2025 Settlement Agreement (Motion for Approval), with a copy of the 2025 Settlement Agreement appended thereto as Attachment 1. The Parties request that the Commission consider and approve the Settlement Agreement in its entirety as being in the public interest.

As was noted in the Suspension Order, "[a] separate order will be issued establishing the appropriate process and controlling dates that will govern this proceeding." This Order is issued pursuant to the authority granted by Rule 28-106.211, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), which provides that the presiding officer before whom a case is pending may issue any orders necessary to effectuate discovery, prevent delay, and promote the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of all aspects of the case.

¹ All references to Order No. PSC-2025-0123-PCO-GU are as amended by Order No. PSC-2025-0123A-PCO-GU and Order No. PSC-2025-0123B-PCO-GU and as modified by Order No. PSC-2025-0149-PCO-GU.

II. Tentative List of Major Elements of Settlement Agreement

A tentative list of the major elements of the 2025 Settlement Agreement that the Commission will consider in determining whether the Agreement is in the public interest is appended hereto as Attachment A.

III. Discovery Procedures

All discovery for which responses were pending on August 8, 2025, when the Suspension Order was issued, shall be considered withdrawn. All parties and Commission staff may propound discovery related to the Settlement Agreement. Section V(A) of Order No. PSC-2025-0123-PCO-GU is amended as follows (changes in bold and underlined):

- (1) Discovery shall be completed by **September 30, 2025**.
- (2) **Discovery requests and responses shall be served by e-mail**. Discovery served via e-mail shall be limited to 5 MB per attachment, shall indicate how many e-mails are being sent related to the discovery (such as 1 of 6 e-mails), and shall be numbered sequentially. Documents provided in response to a document request may be provided via flash or external drive if not served electronically.
...
- (6) Discovery responses shall be served within **7** days of receipt of the discovery request. **All written responses must be accompanied by an affidavit sworn or affirmed by the person(s) providing the responses**.
...
[unnumbered paragraph] When a discovery request is served and the respondent intends to seek clarification of any portion of the discovery request, the respondent shall request such clarification within **2 days of service of the discovery request**. This procedure is intended to reduce delay in resolving discovery disputes.

All discovery responses must be accompanied by an affidavit identifying the person(s) providing the responses. All provisions in Order No. PSC-2025-0123-PCO-GU regarding discovery not specifically amended by the above remain applicable.

IV. Controlling Dates

The following dates are established for Commission consideration of the Joint Motion for Approval of 2025 Settlement Agreement:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) | Discovery deadline | September 30, 2025 |
| (2) | Final hearing | October 7, 2025 |
| (3) | Post-hearing briefs, if any | October 21, 2025 |

V. Additional Procedures

All provisions of Order No. PSC-2025-0123-PCO-GU not specifically amended in this Order remain applicable.

Based upon the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Andrew Giles Fay, as Prehearing Officer, that Order No. PSC-2025-0123-PCO-GU, as amended and modified, shall be modified as stated above. The provisions of that Order are reaffirmed to the extent not inconsistent with this Order. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order shall govern this proceeding unless modified by the Commission.

By ORDER of Commissioner Andrew Giles Fay, as Prehearing Officer, this 20th day of August, 2025.



ANDREW GILES FAY
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer
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Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

MRT

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code; or (2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

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Docket No. 20250029-GU

TENTATIVE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. 2026 Test Year Rate Increase: \$66,733,295
2. 2027 Subsequent Year Adjustment: \$25,000,000
3. Cost of Capital: 10.3% ROE midpoint
4. 2028 Pressure & Capacity Improvements Base Rate Increase
5. Revenue Allocation and Rate Design
6. Cast Iron/Bare Steel Rider
7. Storm Accrual, Reserve, and Damage Cost Recovery
8. Depreciation
9. Federal and/or State Corporate Income Tax Changes
10. Natural Gas Facilities Relocation Cost Removal
11. AMI Pilot
12. Economic Development Expenses
13. Other Accounting Treatments (Parent Debt Adjustment, MGP, TIMP, Software)