

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY
COMMISSION LAW BUREAU
PROSECUTORY STAFF v. UGI
UTILITIES, INC.**

**PUBLIC MEETING – AUGUST 7, 2008
MAY-2008-OSA-0167*
DOCKET NO. M-2008-2036549**

MOTION OF COMMISSIONER TYRONE J. CHRISTY

Before the Commission is a Joint Settlement Agreement (Settlement) filed on April 14, 2008, by UGI Utilities, Inc. (UGI or the Company) and the Commission's Law Bureau Prosecutory Staff (Prosecutory Staff). The Settlement relates to an explosion that destroyed a home in East Lampeter Township, Lancaster County, which was occupied by six people at the time of the explosion. Fortunately there were no injuries. The Settlement, among other things, provides for a civil penalty of \$40,000.¹

I am mindful of UGI's cooperation with the Prosecutory Staff's informal investigation that has resulted in this Settlement, and UGI's history of positive compliance with the Commission's regulations. However, I believe a modification of the Settlement is appropriate. In all other respects the Settlement is not disturbed by this Motion.

Given the rapidly escalating cost of natural gas, I believe that the \$40,000 civil penalty should be applied to UGI's Operation Share hardship fund. This funding of Operation Share would be in addition to UGI's Commission-approved budget for its hardship fund. This additional funding would help approximately 130 low income customers maintain their service, assuming an average grant of about \$300.

THEREFORE, I MOVE:

1. That the Office of Special Assistants prepare a Tentative Opinion and Order consistent with this Motion.
2. That the Tentative Opinion and Order together with the Joint Settlement Agreement be entered for comments by any interested party.

8-7-08
DATE

Tyrone J. Christy
TYRONE J. CHRISTY, COMMISSIONER

¹ In addition, UGI will re-train and re-qualify its emergency response workers and management on emergency procedures which will include bar holing. The Company will meet with the Commission's Gas Safety Division to review UGI's program for sample testing of mechanical service tees as well as for repairing or replacing mechanical service tees when they are uncovered in the normal course of business. Joint Settlement Agreement at 7.