

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  
**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265**

**Pennsylvania Public Utility  
Commission Law Bureau Prosecutory  
Staff v. Columbia Gas of  
Pennsylvania, Inc.**

**Public Meeting – December 3, 2009  
1505396-OSA  
Docket No. M-2009-1505396**

**STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN TYRONE J. CHRISTY**

Today the Commission is seeking comments from interested parties regarding a Settlement Agreement (Settlement) filed on August 26, 2009, by Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia) and the Commission's Law Bureau Prosecutory Staff (Prosecutory Staff). The Settlement, among other things, provides for a civil penalty of \$10,000.<sup>1</sup>

I request that interested parties who submit comments regarding this Settlement address the appropriateness of directing \$10,000 to the Dollar Energy Fund, or other appropriate program, in lieu of imposing a civil penalty on Columbia. I believe that providing additional assistance to low-income customers is an important consideration, particularly during these tough economic times. Many individuals are being forced to choose between paying for utility service and paying for other essentials for their families.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

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**TYRONE J. CHRISTY, VICE CHAIRMAN**

<sup>1</sup> In addition, the Settlement requires that Columbia will continue to follow its current program for abandoning inactive service lines as required by 52 Pa. Code § 59.36 and C.F.R. § 192.727(d) and cease and desist from committing any further violations of gas safety regulations.