

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

**Pennsylvania Public Utility
Commission Law Bureau Prosecutory
Staff v. UGI Utilities, Inc.**

**Public Meeting – March 25, 2010
2037411-OSA
Docket No. M-2010-2037411**

STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN TYRONE J. CHRISTY

During my tenure at the Commission I consistently have advocated that, in lieu of imposing civil penalties on utilities involving violations, or alleged violations, of the Public Utility Code or the Commission's Regulations, that the greater public good is served by applying these dollar amounts elsewhere. These monies should be directed toward deserving utility related social agencies and programs, thereby positively affecting those truly in need. I will continue to advocate for applying these monies to well run programs such as the Dollar Energy Fund and other related programs.

Today the Commission is seeking comments from interested parties regarding a Joint Settlement Agreement (Settlement) filed on January 28, 2010, by UGI Utilities, Inc. (UGI or the Company) and the Commission's Law Bureau Prosecutory Staff (Prosecutory Staff). The Settlement, among other things, provides for a civil penalty of \$15,000.¹

Although I am in the minority today on my desire to redirect this civil penalty, I request that interested parties who submit comments regarding this Settlement address the appropriateness of directing \$15,000 to UGI's Operation Share hardship fund to supplement UGI's existing budget for this program. This additional funding would help approximately 50 low income customers maintain their service, assuming an average grant of about \$300. I believe that providing additional assistance to low-income customers is an important consideration, particularly during these tough economic times during which many individuals are being forced to choose between paying for utility service and paying for other essentials for their families.

DATE

TYRONE J. CHRISTY, VICE CHAIRMAN

¹ In addition, the Settlement requires that UGI review and modify its Damage Protection Program to address the issues described in the Settlement. Also, the Settlement requires UGI to review its mapping system to ensure that all UGI-owned master meter operators (up to and including the master meter) are correctly mapped.