

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-3265**

**Petition of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc., Requesting  
Approval to Use Settlement Proceeds to Fund Residential  
Hardship Fund and Provide PGC Credits to Small Commercial  
Customers**

**PUBLIC MEETING  
March 12, 2009  
2083915-LAW  
Docket No. P-2009-2083915**

**DISSENTING STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER KIM PIZZINGRILLI**

Under the terms of the FERC approved settlement that resulted in this Petition, Columbia has proposed to allocate \$572,000 to its Hardship Fund for residential customers. This amount is more than double the amount of funding that is normally available to this program in a typical year. Columbia Gas has also proposed to temporarily expand the eligibility of its hardship program from 200 % to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. In its Answer to the Petition, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) stated that this temporary expansion was appropriate in light of current economic conditions. OCA also noted that the temporary expansion of the eligibility requirements, along with the additional funds made available by the FERC approved settlement, will permit the Company to provide assistance to “a group of customers who receive little assistance in bill payment, but often face serious economic challenges.” OCA Answer to Petition at 3.

The Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Services (BCS) also believes temporary expansion of the program is reasonable. I agree with both the OCA and the BCS that the economic difficulties many consumers are facing justifies temporary expansion of the Hardship program eligibility, particularly since it will come at no cost to ratepayers.

**March 12, 2009**  
Date

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**KIM PIZZINGRILLI, COMMISSIONER**