|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PUC logo | COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIAPENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONP.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265 | **IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO OUR FILE** |

April 9, 2012

TO ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES, NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

 Re: Alternative Fuel Vehicles Forum on

 PUC Jurisdictional Issues

 Docket No. M-2012-2287224

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC or Commission) will hold a Forum on Thursday, May 31, 2012, to seek information from interested parties on PUC jurisdictional issues related to Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs), specifically natural gas and electric.

The move toward increased use of AFVs creates numerous issues and questions, many of which impact the Commission’s core functions. The Commission envisions this Forum as the first step in an ongoing discussion of AFV issues under its jurisdiction, creating a foundation for possible future action by the Commission. Notably, the Forum will not examine issues outside of the Commission’s jurisdiction such as vehicle technology, environmental impacts or cost/benefit of using AFVs.

The Forum will be held at 9 a.m. at Anthony J. Drexel Picture Gallery at Drexel University, Philadelphia. The five PUC Commissioners as well as state Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael Krancer and state Department of Transportation Secretary Barry Schoch will be presiding. The public is invited to attend. The Forum will be transcribed and recorded.

The Forum will include presentations and panel discussions of natural gas and electric vehicle-related issues. As this Forum is not an adversarial proceeding, companies may be represented by a partner, *bona fide* officer or employee of the company, in lieu of an attorney. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 1.21(c). The Commission is making arrangements for presenters and panelists to participate. The PUC will release a tentative agenda of the hearing by May 25, 2012.

The Commission has identified the attached list of questions, which are simply meant to guide the discussion. We note, however, that these will not be the only questions or issues to be discussed.

Interested parties are invited to file written comments for inclusion in the record with the Secretary of the Commission no later than May 18, 2012. All documents will be posted on the PUC’s website. To be considered in the process, comments must be officially filed through the eFiling system on the PUC website or served in written format with:

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary

PA Public Utility Commission

Post Office Box 3265

Harrisburg, PA 17105

Following the Forum, all interested parties will have the opportunity to submit comments by June 30, 2012, for the Commission’s consideration. Questions about the Forum or this Secretarial Letter should be directed to ra-AFV@pa.gov.



 Very truly yours,

 Rosemary Chiavetta

 Secretary

Attachment

**May 31, 2012, Alternative Fuel Vehicle Forum**

**Questions Designed to Guide the Discussion on Natural Gas Vehicles**

1. Beyond the incremental vehicle costs, what is the primary obstacle to the success of the natural gas vehicle (NGV) market in Pennsylvania ?
2. What impact would further development of NGVs have on demand for natural gas and the long-term price of natural gas?
3. How will increased demand resulting from NGVs affect utility infrastructure?
4. To what extent will utility investment in infrastructure be necessary to address demand for NGVs?
5. What lessons have been learned from prior NGV endeavors?
6. What kinds of cost recovery/tariffs are appropriate to support the NGV market? Are current tariffs adequate?
7. Will there be sufficient competition to ensure fair pricing and adequate service by non-regulated NGV fueling stations?
8. How do we create a level playing field for utilities, retail natural gas suppliers, and fueling stations?
9. Who should undertake the consumer education or retail sales of NGV fuel – utilities, non-regulated utility affiliates or others?
10. How could regulatory lag keep utilities from adjusting to swings in market prices and make them less competitive?

**May 31, 2012, Alternative Fuel Vehicle Forum**

**Questions Designed to Guide the Discussion on Electric Vehicles**

1. Beyond the incremental vehicle cost, what are the primary obstacles to electric vehicle (EV) adoption in Pennsylvania?
2. What impact would further development of EVs have on electricity demand and the long-term price to consumers?
3. How will the widespread use of EVs affect the both the wholesale and retail price of electricity?
4. What role, if any, should the Commission or electric distribution companies play in the education of consumers or permitting, installing, maintaining and inspecting of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)?
5. How does the long term outlook for electric generation match-up with the introduction and growth of the EV market?
6. What lessons have been learned from prior EV endeavors?
7. What kinds of cost recovery/tariffs are appropriate to support the EV market? Are current tariffs adequate?
8. To what extent will utility investment in infrastructure be necessary to address demand for EVs?
9. How will EV charging affect the load shape of the electric system?
10. What type of net-metering and/or ancillary service opportunities do EVs present for consumers?
11. What kind of regulatory treatment is appropriate for utility infrastructure investments that are directly related to EVs?
12. What role, if any, should the Commission take to incent the build out of public EVSEs?