

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120**

**RATIFICATION OF EMERGENCY
ORDERS ESTABLISHING:**

**Public Meeting held March 26, 2020
3019244; 3019254; 3019262-LAW
Docket Nos. M-2020-3019244
 M-2020-3019254
 M-2020-3019262**

TERMINATION MORATORIUM

**SUPPLIER DOOR-TO-DOOR AND IN-
PERSON MARKETING MORATORIUM**

**SUSPENSION OF REGULATORY
AND STATUTORY DEADLINES;
MODIFICATION TO FILING AND
SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN GLADYS BROWN DUTRIEUILLE

On March 6, 2020, pursuant to subsection 7301(c) of the Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. §§ 7101, *et seq.*, Governor Tom Wolf issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency proclaiming the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth for a period of up to ninety days, unless renewed by the Governor.

On March 13, 2020, the Commission issued an Emergency Order establishing a moratorium on service terminations for all electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, telecommunications, and steam utilities to coincide with the duration of the Governor's emergency proclamation. The purpose of the moratorium is to ensure that utility customers continue to receive essential utility service during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the moratorium is in place, utilities cannot terminate service unless for purposes of remediating an emergency. I wish to clarify that the Commission's March 13th Order does not free customers who are able to pay their utility bills, from paying them. I am very cognizant that many Pennsylvanians have had significant impacts to their income during the pandemic. I urge customers experiencing financial difficulty to contact their service provider to explore payment options and assistance programs. Payment for utility service also allows the utilities to pay the employees who keep our electric, water, telecommunication, and gas service operating safely. So, I emphasize that we are all in this together, and that customers who have the ability to pay their utility bills, must continue to do so, to avoid arrearages once the pandemic has passed.

On March 16, 2020, the Commission issued a second Emergency Order prohibiting door-to-door, public event and in person sales and marketing of competitive energy supply services in Pennsylvania, with the intention of minimizing non-essential personal social contact during the pandemic.

On March 20, 2020, we issued a third Emergency Order authorizing the suspension of regulatory and statutory deadlines to ensure that the Commission's operations continue as smoothly as possible and to prevent any regulatory statute or rule prescribing procedures for the conduct of Commission business from unreasonably interfering with the public interest. Additionally, the Emergency Order modified the Commission's filing and service requirements and authorized the Secretary to modify Chapter 1 of our regulations as deemed necessary.

All three of these Emergency Orders will continue during the pendency of the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency. I believe that the issuance of these Emergency Orders was necessary to ensure public safety and the public interest. I offer my sincerest thanks for a job well done to the dedicated staff from multiple Commission bureaus who pulled these orders together in a short time frame while working from home.

March 26, 2020

Date



Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairman