

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG PA 17120**

**Ratification of Emergency Order
Establishing Termination Moratorium;
Petition for Clarification**

**Public Meeting held December 17, 2020
3019244-LAW
Docket No. M-2020-3019244**

STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID W. SWEET

Before the Commission is the Petition for Clarification filed by the Coalition for Affordable Utility Service and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA), The Action Alliance of Senior Citizens of Greater Philadelphia, and the Tenant Union Representative Network (TURN), to the Commission Order entered pursuant to the Motion of Chairman Brown Dutrieuille at the October 8, 2020 public meeting. That order modified the March 13, 2020 Emergency Order which had prohibited the termination of service of all customers by lifting the absolute moratorium for customers with income levels over 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. These most vulnerable citizens would retain protection if they qualified by complying with stated requirements.

I voted against the lifting of the moratorium because I did not believe that the conditions in the Commonwealth supported such action, and also because I was concerned that the terms of the motion were not detailed enough to provide guidance to the utilities, customers and others. In particular, I believe that the requirement to apply for all available assistance is too vague for uniform application.

However, the utilities have already implemented their own interpretations, and I fear that attempting to clarify the term now would cause more confusion than clarity. Accordingly, I will be voting in favor of the staff recommendation to deny the petition.

December 17, 2020
DATE



DAVID W. SWEET
VICE CHAIRMAN