

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

Public Meeting held February 1, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman
Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair
Ralph V. Yanora
Kathryn L. Zerfuss
John F. Coleman, Jr.

Letter Petition for Approval of two Board Members
to the West Penn Power Sustainable
Energy Fund

Docket Number:
M-00031715F0005

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

Before the Commission is a Letter Petition of the West Penn Power Company Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF), dated December 21, 2023, for the approval of two nominees to its Board of Directors. Commission approval of the proposed Board members is required by the WPPSEF's governing Bylaws. *West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund Bylaws*, Docket No. R-00973981 (Order entered June 2, 2000); *Letter Petition of the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund for Approval of Revisions to the Bylaws that Govern its Operation*, Docket No. M-00031715F0005 (Order entered January 26, 2017).

On November 18, 1998, at Docket Number R-00973981, the Commission approved the Joint Petition for Full Settlement of the restructuring proceeding

filed by West Penn Power Company (West Penn Power) so as to comply with the requirements of the Electricity Generation Customer Choice and Competition Act, 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 2801-2812. *Application of West Penn Power Company for Approval of its Restructuring Plan under Section 2806 of the Public Utility Code*, Docket No. R-00973981 (Order entered November 19, 1998). Among the provisions of the approved settlement was one establishing a Sustainable Energy Fund to promote (1) the development and use of renewable energy and clean energy technologies, (2) energy conservation and efficiency, and (3) renewable business initiatives and projects in the West Penn Power service territory.

On June 4, 1999, the Commission approved the Advisory Board for the WPPSEF and, on June 2, 2000, the Commission approved the Bylaws for the WPPSEF. *Re Sustainable Energy Funds*, Docket No. R-00973981 (Order entered June 4, 1999). The approval of the Bylaws allowed the WPPSEF to begin operations to promote the development of and use of renewable and clean energy technologies in Pennsylvania.

At the Advisory Board meeting of the WPPSEF on December 14, 2023, the Board took action to nominate and approve Mr. Mike Pauly and Ms. Brandon (Brandy) Schimp, to serve on the Board of Directors. The WPPSEF requests that the Commission approve the appointment of Mr. Pauly and Ms. Schimp to replace Ms. Michelle Ponchione and Mr. James Stark whose terms expired on December 31, 2023. Mr. Pauly will serve as the WPPSEF Director to represent the industrial interveners' interests. Ms. Schimp will serve as the WPPSEF Director to represent institutional and consumer customer interests. Pursuant to the WPPSEF Bylaws at Article IV, Section 4.3 (A) (relating to Board of Directors), the Board strives to have members representative of renewable or clean energy interests, energy conservation or efficiency interests, environmental

interests, industrial or commercial interests, and institutional or consumer interests.

Mr. Pauly has worked for nearly twenty years in the industrial sector and has particular experience with the manufacture of Passive House-certified high-performance windows. He currently serves as Vice President of Sales and Operations for Ventana USA, in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Pauly holds a board position at the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland. Mr. Pauly graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and from Seton Hill University with a Master of Business Administration. Mr. Pauly resides in Murrysville, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Schimp is a lifelong resident of the Borough of Kane, Pennsylvania, and is serving her sixth year as Mayor of the Borough. Ms. Schimp also owns Moose Ventures, LLC, overseeing the daily operations and financial aspects of residential and commercial real estate. Ms. Schimp holds several board positions at community organizations in, and around, the Borough of Kane. Ms. Schimp graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing.

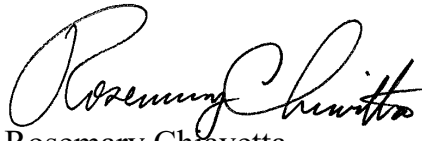
In keeping with the intent of the *Best Practices for the Regional Sustainable Energy Funds: Guidelines for the Nomination, Election and Approval of Directors*, the WPPSEF sent out notice of the Board vacancy and put notice of the Board vacancy on its website beginning November 2023.

Based on a review of all relevant information, we find these nominees to be well qualified to serve on the Advisory Board of the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund; **THEREFORE**,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the nominations of Mr. Mike Pauly and Ms. Brandon Schimp to the Advisory Board of the West Penn Sustainable Energy Fund are hereby approved.
2. That a copy of this Order be served on Mr. Mike Pauly, Ms. Brandon Schimp, the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Consumer Advocate, and the Office of Small Business Advocate.
3. That this proceeding, at M-00031715F0005, be closed.

BY THE COMMISSION,


Rosemary Chifavetta,
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: February 1, 2024

ORDER ENTERED: February 1, 2024