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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

November 1, 2001

Honorable Glen Thomas, Chairman
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Keystone Building
400 North Street
3rd Floor, North Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: Regulation #57-218 (IRRC #2172)
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Natural Gas Emergency Plans and Emergency Actions

Dear Chairman Thomas:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved your regulation on November 1, 2001. Our Order is enclosed and is available on our website at www.irrc.state.pa.us.

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that meets the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. McGinley, Jr.", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

John R. McGinley, Jr.
Chairman

evp
Enclosure

cc: Honorable Chris R. Wogan, Majority Chairman, House Consumer Affairs Committee
Honorable Joseph Preston, Jr., Democratic Chairman, House Consumer Affairs Committee
Honorable Clarence D. Bell, Chairman, Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee
Honorable Lisa M. Boscola, Minority Chairman, Senate Consumer Protection and Licensure Committee

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
APPROVAL ORDER**

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held November 1, 2001

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman, by Phone
Arthur Coccodrilli
Robert J. Harbison, III
John F. Mizner, by Phone

Regulation No. 57-218
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Natural Gas Emergency Plans
and Emergency Actions

On January 31, 2001, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC). This rulemaking amends 52 Pa. Code Section 59.63, adds Sections 59.71 – 59.75 and deletes Sections 69.21 – 69.27. The proposed regulation was published in the February 10, 2001 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on October 5, 2001.

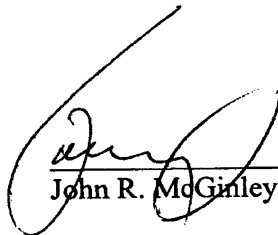
This final-form rulemaking establishes procedures for managing gas supply emergencies with the intent of maintaining gas service while minimizing service disruption. The regulation is mandated by the Natural Gas Choice and Competition Act of 1999 (66 Pa C.S. §§ 2201 – 2212). All natural gas distribution companies will be required to comply with the rulemaking.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the PUC (66 Pa. C.S. §§ 501 and 2203(12)) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

This regulation is approved.





John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman