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Docket L-20092107155

I am submitting a public comment to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission regarding a change to the rule that regulates the location of gas meters and gas regulators moving them from the inside to the outside of a building. Under the current rule (52 Pa Code Sec.59.18), gas meters and regulators can be located inside or outside of buildings.

As a homeowner and landlord, I am very opposed to this change! It should only be done with building owner's approval. My objection stems from the concern that this will greatly affect the "curb appeal" of our city neighborhoods – some of which need all the help they can get.

In places where there are multiple units in a building and multiple meters in plain view, it is extremely unsightly. Many city neighborhoods have their problems with crime, trash, and urban decay, but are trying to improve their situation. This proposed change would undermine the efforts of various communities to improve their appearance as a way of inspiring more pride in these neighborhoods, which often leads to healthier and safer communities.

Under this proposed change, row houses (some with multiple meters) will be forced to put the meters either in the front of the house or a narrow side alley. Many places don't even have an alley or suitable outdoor place.

Making life a little easier for the gas company should not trump various efforts over the years to improve our communities!

As a landlord, having my meters in my basements makes a little more work and coordination for me, but I will take this hassle any day over having 4 meters outside my property, which will be the case for my Shadyside and Oakland properties!

I understand that there is a provision in the new rule that allows (but does not require) inside meter locations to be considered *only when an acceptable outside location is not available due to restriction in Federally approved Historic Districts or in high risk vandalism districts*. While this may provide some level of protection in federally designated historic districts, this language provides no protection at all for individual historic properties, local historic districts, and districts that have been determined eligible for but not listed in the National Register.

As much as I'm all in favor of protecting historic properties, I fear that some accommodation will be made for historic properties and leave the rest of us in the

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dust. In Pittsburgh, most of our city neighborhoods are historic, though they may not be significant nor would qualify as such.

Please do not go through with this change that will adversely affect the appearance of our neighborhoods!

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely

Melissa McSwigan

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