

Docket Number L-2009-2107155

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Attn: Mr. Robert F. Powleson, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, Pa. 17105-3265

July 11, 2012

Dear Commission Members:

I am a resident of the Old Allentown Historic District since 1988, and I chose to live in this historic significant neighborhood. I have completely renovated and restored a federal style building and sold that property, and moved into my present property, a Victorian style home built in 1870. The mission of the historic districts is to restore the exterior physical appearance to its original design, and the closeness of our properties to the streets and roads is extremely compromised, as little as 4 feet to 15 feet from the curb.

I have traveled throughout the world and work in Northern New Jersey and Manhattan and I have not seen the extensive placement of gas meters on the exterior front of buildings as I have seen in Allentown to date. I am concerned about safety of locating these devices on the exterior front of these properties. Within the last month we have experienced 3 accidents involving cars hitting and damaging the front of these properties in the City of Allentown. Our neighborhood groups are planting trees for both environmental purposes and protection of properties from motor vehicles crashing into the front of these buildings. My present property at 945 West Turner Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania has a 34-year old maple tree in the front of the property which was struck several times by cars and trucks to the point the tree has been severely damaged , but saved the house from structural damage.

Presently my home has a vent pipe located in the window well protected by a wrought iron grate and the meter is in the basement, out of the weather and protected by my concrete foundation. I am very pleased with its present location and feel totally safe. The lack of knowledge of the City of Allentown codes

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involving encroachment on public right of ways by the subcontractors hired by UGI demonstrates lack of communication with City, Neighborhood, and property owners. I have observed these devices encroaching in the public right of ways. They are attached to the front of concrete porches and protrude outwardly over the sidewalks. *Who will be liable when people get hurt by falling on them or damaging them???* *Who will be responsible for maintaining these devices from deterioration and weathering?* I have seen many rusty meters and pipes throughout the city. Not a pleasant sight! I live across from the oldest cemetery in Allentown where are buried Revolutionary Soldiers, War of 1812, Spanish American War, Civil War, and many other veterans. I wish to preserve our Historic heritage. I request the ability to maintain the existing configuration of my meter and vent pipe. The real mission for UGI is the replacement of the aging cast iron pipeline throughout our City, which caused the destruction of an entire city block, resulting in loss of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dale A. Fritchman".

Dale A. Fritchman

945 West Turner Street

Allentown, PA 18102