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July 14, 2012

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Attn: Ms. Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary

Commonwealth Keystone Building

400 North Street, 2nd Floor-1 North

Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Regulation #57-277 Meter Location

IRRC Number 2950

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission:

We are writing to express our concerns and opposition to the proposal of the Public Utility Commission to relocate interior gas meters and pressure regulators to the outside of historic homes.

We live in the Old Allentown Historic District and take great pride in our home. Placing the meter and regulator outside concern us for the following reasons:

- 1- We live in a high density area of the city where neighbors take great care and pride in caring for their historic homes. Careful consideration is taken anytime we do any upgrades to our homes and often we are required to get prior approval from HARB. To place meters and regulators out front would greatly diminish the character of our neighborhood.
- 2- Like any block with row homes, there is not a lot of sidewalk space. We all do our best to make sure our sidewalks are clean and free of debris that would be a danger to pedestrians. Placing the meters and regulators would only add risk to the homeowner and here is why:
 - a. UGI has already installed meters and regulators in front of other homes in the area. Besides wrecking the roads and sidewalks, the placement in front of the homes is in the middle of an already tight sidewalk. In some places, a mom pushing a stroller with another child walking next to her must now stop and follow behind due to lack of space. I guess passing neighbors would just walk out into the street to pass or press up against a wall and wait until they pass.
 - b. Also, during bad weather, we are not permitted to shovel snow into the street or we will be fined. We have to make sure there is a clearing on our sidewalk, or we will be fined. Due to lack of space, we will be forced to put snow and slush near or around the meter and regulator, where there are documented incidences of meters cracking under such weight and coldness. This is one potential risk we do not want to take, not just for our home, but for the homes of our neighbors.
 - c. The possibility of a car running up on the sidewalk and crashing into any piping is greater than you would think. We can site many incidences again, of this occurring right in our neighborhood. We live on an extremely highly trafficked street and that likelihood for us on 8th Street is even greater. We pray never to have to see what would happen is the gas line and a car fire meet.
 - d. Unfortunately, vandalism is an everyday occurrence. People will do just about anything to destroy what does not belong to them- just for fun. We have seen people break windows, destroy street signs and slash tires, just because they could. If you think rows of pipes in front of peoples' houses are not going to be tampered with, then that is foolish thinking.
 - e. People, especially children, do not always realize what the meter and regulator are for. All they see is a place to chain up their bikes, a means to tie up their dogs, something to grab onto and pull and something to climb on. These types of activities will take a toll and the homeowner may not even be around to see it to prevent it. Many of us enter our homes from the back of the house, so rarely, do we, on a regular basis, even notice what is going on in the front of our homes.
- 3- We can appreciate the need to try and make things easier, but easier, does not mean safer. Unlike the west end of town, where they have lush lawns, big sidewalks and wider roadways, we city dwellers have a lot to worry about when it comes to the safety of our homes. We choose to live in the city where we can help revitalize it, but this danger and eyesore of a meter and regulator greatly concern us.

It is our deepest hope that the PUC will take our concerns seriously and rethink the placing of meters and regulators out to a general public that often has little regard for our homes.

Sincerely,

Gracia Perilli and Kim Ceccatti

*N. 8th Street
Allentown PA 18102*