Steven L. Beshear Governor

Leonard K. Peters Secretary Energy and Environment Cabinet



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David L. Armstrong Chairman

James W. Gardner Vice Chairman

> Linda Breathitt Commissioner

June 27, 2013

Richard Northern Francis Mellen, Jr. Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP 500 West Jefferson Street, Suite 2800 Louisville, KY 40202

Robert Watt Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC 300 West Vine Street, Suite 2100 Louisville, KY 40202

Re: Case No. 2013-00163

### Gentlemen:

Attached is a copy of a memorandum which is being filed in the record of the above-referenced case. If you have any comments you would like to make regarding the contents of the memorandum concerning the June 26, 2013 Informal Conference, please do so within five days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Virginia Gregg or Jonathan Beyer, Staff Attorneys, at 502/564-3940.

Sincere

Executive Director

#### **INTRA-AGENCY MEMORANDUM**

## **KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

TO:

Case File - Case No. 2013-00163

FROM:

Jonathan Beyer, Staff Attorney

DATE:

June 27, 2013

RE:

Informal Conference of June 26, 2013

On June 26, 2013, pursuant to the Commission's June 21, 2013 Order, an informal conference was held in this matter at the request of the applicants to discuss and simplify the issues presented in this case. A list of attendees is attached.

Beginning the conference, Mr. O'Brien with Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC ("Peoples"), presented an overview of the company's history and present operational status. He stated that Peoples' predominant focus is on safety and customer service. He further stated that while the Kentucky operations are a small portion of the overall assets involved in the transfer agreement with EQT, Peoples will continue to focus foremost on safety and continuing to improve customer service. He noted that once the transfer is completed, the Kentucky activities will be detached into a separate subsidiary solely encompassing the Kentucky farm tap operations. Mr. McGuire followed with a summary of SteelRiver Infrastructure Partners ("SteelRiver") investment philosophy and stated that the instant acquisition, like current properties in SteelRiver's portfolio, is intended to be a long-term, multi-decade acquisition.

Commission Staff inquired whether Peoples intends to continue operating as a farm tap system pursuant to KRS 278.485 and noted that Commission approval of the transfer may not be required for a farm tap system which does not meet the statutory definition of a utility. Mr. Watt stated that previous Commission Orders have not been clear on whether Equitable Gas Company ("Equitable Gas") is a farm tap provider or a regulated utility. Mr. O'Brien indicated that it is Peoples' intention to continue to operate as a farm tap system as opposed to a fully regulated utility. However, he stated that Peoples is amenable to and comfortable with operating under either classification. Mr. Quinn thereafter briefly described the current Equitable Gas gas purchase arrangement giving rise to the gas cost which is passed through Equitable's quarterly Gas Cost Adjustment mechanism.

In consideration of the broader transaction, Mr. Watt, requested that in the event the Commission finds that approval for the transfer of a farm tap system is unnecessary, the Commission issue an Order specifically asserting the basis and rationale for the decision. He further indicated that this matter may be resolved through discovery and therefore that it is the position of the applicants that a hearing is unnecessary.

Finding that no party had any further questions, the conference was adjourned.

## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE NO.

In the Matter of:		

JOINT APPLICATION OF PNG COMPANIES LLC, PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY LLC, EQT

CORPORATION, DISTRIBUTION AND EQUITABLE GAS COMPAN APPROVAL OF ACQUISITION OF AND CONTROL OF EQUITABLE LLC	Y, LLC FOR ) F OWNERSHIP )
Please sign in:	
NAME	REPRESENTING
David Gruy	326 EQT - Telephanically
John Quinn	PNG EQT - Telephonically
Fred Delana	I=GT - Telephonically
Jonathan Beyer	PSC-Legal
Vingines Trega	PSC-Logal
Robert War	5x0/Equitable
GARY GLOVER	PSC - ENGWEERING
Light Thulland	PSC- Financial analyses
Juntunes	PSC- Formacial Aprelia : 5
JOHN MCGUIRE	Steel River Infrastructure Partners.
Frank Mellen	Wyatt, Tanant + Combs
LICK NORTHERN	WYATT, TARKANT + COMBS
MORGAN O'BRIEN	PEOPLES NATURAL GAS
Jason Brangers	PSC-Engineering