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Press Release

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DCPSC Coordinates Efforts for Relocation of Natural Gas Meters

(Washington, D.C.) The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (Commission) is coordinating an effort to address consumer concerns related to natural gas meter relocation and the appearance of these meters, the exterior of properties in historic districts in the city. The Commission is working with the several District agencies, the Office of the People's Counsel, and Washington Gas Light Company to enhance the District's regulations and guidelines governing relocation of natural gas meters from the inside of the consumers' homes to the outside space.

This coordinated effort was triggered by customer complaints in Ward 6, which were brought to the Commission's attention by the Office of the People's Counsel. As part of its pipeline safety enhancement projects, Washington Gas has been conducting pipeline replacement and has been relocating customer gas meters from the inside of the houses to the outside space. Some of the complaints alleged that the outside meters and associated safety protections could negatively affect the appearance goals for historic neighborhoods.

To address the specific complaints brought by the Office of the People's Counsel, and to prevent similar situations in the future, the Commission is working with the District Department of Transportation, the Office of Planning, and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. These agencies and the Commission are involved in various capacities in the review and permitting of meter relocation work conducted in historic and non-historic areas of the city and in ensuring meter relocation complies with all federal gas safety requirements. The Commission's work on this matter is in Formal Case 1141.

The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia is an independent agency established by Congress in 1913 to regulate electric, natural gas, and telecommunications companies in the District of Columbia.

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