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October 6, 2017

## VIA E-PORTAL FILING

The Honorable Ronald Brise Commissioner and Prehearing Officer Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

## Re: Docket No. 20170004-GU – Natural gas conservation cost recovery

Dear Commissioner Brise:

I am writing to you as the Prehearing Officer in the captioned docket. I am counsel for Peoples Gas System ("Peoples") in the docket, and respectfully request that I be excused from attending the hearing in the docket, which is scheduled to commence in Tallahassee October 25, 2017.

All issues in the docket have been stipulated as between Peoples and the Commission Staff. Under the circumstances, my attendance for Peoples at the hearing would serve no real purpose, except to increase Peoples' legal expense (including the expense of my travel from Tampa to Tallahassee).

I would sincerely appreciate your favorable consideration and disposition of this request.

Respectfully

AMB/a

cc: Commission Clerk (via e-portal filing) Stephanie Cuello, Esquire (via e-mail) Parties of Record (via e-mail) Kandi M. Floyd