August 5, 2009

Secretary James McNulty  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re:

Metropolitan Edison Company (Met-Ed) EE&C Plan - Docket No. M-2009-2092222  

Dear Secretary McNulty:

On behalf of Metropolitan Edison Company ("Met-Ed"), Pennsylvania Electric Company ("Penelec") and Pennsylvania Power Company ("Penn Power"), enclosed please find an Answer Opposing the Petition to Intervene filed by The People's Natural Gas Company d/b/a/ Dominion Peoples in the above-referenced proceeding. This Answer was electronically filed today.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

STEVENS & LEE

Michael A. Gruin

MAG/kdd  
Enclosures

cc: ALJ David Salapa  
Certificate of Service

Philadelphia • Reading • Valley Forge • Lehigh Valley • Harrisburg • Lancaster • Scranton  
Williamsport • Wilkes-Barre • Princeton • Cherry Hill • New York • Wilmington

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Metropolitan Edison Company Energy

Pennsylvania Electric Company Energy

Pennsylvania Power Company Energy

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY
PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY AND
PENNSYLVANIA POWER COMPANY’S
ANSWER OPPOSING THE PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE PEOPLE’S
NATURAL GAS COMPANY D/B/A DOMINION PEOPLES

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §5.66, Metropolitan Edison Company (“Met-Ed”), Pennsylvania Electric Company (“Penelec”) and Pennsylvania Power Company (“Penn Power”) (collectively referred to as the “FirstEnergy Companies”) by and through its attorneys, Stevens & Lee, hereby files the Answer Opposing the Petition to Intervene of The People’s Natural Gas Company D/B/A Dominion Peoples (“Dominion”). In support of this Answer, the FirstEnergy Companies aver as follows:

I. SUMMARY OF OPPOSITION

The Petition of Dominion, filed and dated July 31, 2009 is untimely and should be rejected. Moreover, Dominion’s untimely Petition is “defective on its face” because it fails to comply with the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure and provide “reasonable grounds” for Petitioner’s failure to intervene earlier in these proceedings as required by 52 PA Code § 1.15.
Petitioner has no legitimate “right or interest” that warrants intervention in this proceeding because “fuel switching” or “fuel-substitution” measures are not proposed by the FirstEnergy Companies or presented as an issue in their EE&C plans. Dominion’s request for leave to participate in this proceeding is based solely upon its desire to have gas fuel switching measures included in the Act 129 Energy Efficiency and Conservation (“EE&C”) plans of the FirstEnergy Companies, despite the fact that the presiding Administrative Law Judge has stated:

“...it is not reasonable to expect Met Ed and Penelec to expend resources responding to discovery regarding what is not in their proposed plans when the time period involved in this litigation is already short and the subject matter of fuel-switching has been deferred to another proceeding.”

II. BACKGROUND

1. On July 1, 2009, Met Ed, Penelec and Penn Power filed their energy conservation and efficiency plans with the Commission pursuant to the Commission’s orders and Act 129. The Met-Ed, Penelec and Penn Power EE&C Plans and Testimony were assigned individual docket numbers and published on the Commission’s website. Also on July 1, 2009, Met Ed, Penelec and Penn Power filed a joint petition for consolidation of the proceedings.

2. By notice dated July 2, 2009, the Commission scheduled a prehearing conference for this matter on July 29, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in Hearing Room 3, Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg and assigned Administrative Law Judge David A. Salapa to preside. The Notice of the Prehearing Conference was

1 ORDER GRANTING PETITIONS TO INTERVENE OF UGI UTILITIES, INC.-GAS DIVISION, UGI PENN NATURAL GAS, INC. AND UGI CENTRAL PENN GAS, INC. AND DISMISSING THE REQUESTS
published on the Commission’s website and publicly available. ALJ Salapa issued a Prehearing Conference Order on July 8, 2009. The Prehearing Conference Order was published on the Commission’s website under the dockets corresponding to the FirstEnergy Company EE&C Plan proceedings. The Prehearing Conference Order established a July 29, 2009 deadline for the timely filing of petitions to intervene stating:

Parties shall be limited to those persons or entities who file a petition to intervene pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§5.71-76 (or a notice of intervention for those entities with a statutory right of participation pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §5.72(b) (4)) on or before July 29, 2009, and who attend the initial prehearing conference. After the prehearing conference, intervention is limited to those persons or entities granted party status pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§5.71-5.76. Petitions to intervene, if not timely, or otherwise defective on their face, shall be deemed granted if not objected to within three business days after filing. If objected to, such pleadings will be addressed by order.²

3. On Saturday, July 25, 2005 the Commission filed Notice of the filing of the EE&C Plans of the FirstEnergy Companies in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and specifically provided that: “Petitions for Intervention should be filed with the Secretary and a copy served on the Administrative Law Judge on or before July 29, 2009.”³

4. On July 29, 2009 ALJ Salapa conducted a prehearing conference in this case in which counsel for the FirstEnergy Companies and counsel for Petitioner⁴ were present. While representing UGI at the Prehearing Conference in support of its intervention petition, Counsel for Petitioner also discussed the intervention status of other natural gas distribution companies in Act 129 proceedings at the Commission, including

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² PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER, July 8, 2009 at pages 1-2.
⁴ As evidenced by its Petition, Counsel for Dominion also represents UGI in this matter. Counsel actively participated in the prehearing conference.
Equitable Gas Company and Duquesne.\textsuperscript{5} Counsel for Petitioner was also present at the July 29, 2009 Prehearing Conference when Counsel for the FirstEnergy Companies stated:

"Our concern, Your Honor, is that the intervention date as published in the "Bulletin" and in Your Honor's Order remain the same, that today is the deadline for intervention in this proceeding."\textsuperscript{6}

5. On July 31, 2009 the presiding ALJ issued an \textit{ORDER GRANTING PETITIONS TO INTERVENE OF UGI UTILITIES, INC.-GAS DIVISION, UGI PENN NATURAL GAS, INC. AND UGI CENTRAL PENN GAS, INC. AND DISMISSING THE REQUESTS TO INTERVENE OF COMPERIO ENERGY LLC D/B/A CLEARCHOICE ENERGY AND E CUBED COMPANY, LLC.} With respect to the subject of fuel substitution, which Dominion seeks to examine in this proceeding, the ALJ stated:

However, ALJ Colwell also warned that a grant of intervention does not equal an open invitation to discovery. The usual rules of relevance are in effect, meaning that objections to discovery requests which are outside the scope of the plans and their development will be upheld. I agree with ALJ Colwell that it is not reasonable to expect Met Ed and Penelec to expend resources responding to discovery regarding what is not in their proposed plans when the time period involved in this litigation is already short and the subject matter of fuel-switching has been deferred to another proceeding.\textsuperscript{7}

III. \textbf{ARGUMENT}

6. The Petition of Dominion, filed and dated July 31, 2009 is untimely. The July 8, 2009 Prehearing Conference Order of ALJ Salapa clearly establishes that July 29, 2009 is the deadline for the timely filing of petitions to intervene in this proceeding.

\textsuperscript{5} Tr at 12-13.
\textsuperscript{6} Tr. at 38.
\textsuperscript{7} \textit{ORDER GRANTING PETITIONS TO INTERVENE OF UGI UTILITIES, INC.-GAS DIVISION, UGI PENN NATURAL GAS, INC. AND UGI CENTRAL PENN GAS, INC. AND DISMISSING THE REQUESTS TO INTERVENE OF COMPERIO ENERGY LLC D/B/A CLEARCHOICE ENERGY AND E CUBED COMPANY, LLC.}
Moreover, the Commission’s Notice published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin establishes that Petitions for Intervention should be filed with the Secretary and a copy served on the Administrative Law Judge on or before July 29, 2009. As evidenced by Counsel for Petitioner’s active participation in the Prehearing Conference in this matter, Counsel for Petitioner knew, or should have known, that the instant petition filed on July 31, 2009 would be untimely; however, Petitioner fails to provide any explanation for its untimely filing in its petition to intervene in this proceedings.

7. The Commission’s regulations clearly establish an obligation to provide reasonable grounds for Petitioner’s failure to timely intervene in this proceeding. 52 Pa Code §1.15(a) (1) provides:

(1) Except as otherwise provided by statute, whenever under this title or by order of the Commission, or notice given thereunder, an act is required or allowed to be done at or within a specified time, the time fixed or the period of time prescribed may, by the Commission, the presiding officer or other authorized person, for good cause be extended upon motion made before expiration of the period originally prescribed or as previously extended. Upon motion made after the expiration of the specified period, the act may be permitted to be done where reasonable grounds are shown for the failure to act. (EMPHASIS ADDED)

Petitioner’s failure to provide any grounds for its untimely filing causes the Petition of Dominion for intervention in this proceeding to be defective on its face. Accordingly, Petitioner’s untimely and defective Petition to Intervene should be denied.

8. Dominion does not deny that it was fully aware of the deadline for intervention. Yet Dominion’s Petition does not set forth any reasonable grounds for its failure to file its Petition for Intervention until after the deadline, as required by 52 Pa. Code 1.15(a)(1). Petitioner and its counsel clearly have experience in navigating the

TO INTERVENE OF COMPERIO ENERGY LLC D/B/A CLEARCHOICE ENERGY AND E CUBED COMPANY, LLC, at page 7, July 31, 2009.
Commission’s website dockets, based upon their active participation in prior Commission proceedings. With the docket numbers of the FirstEnergy EE&C plans published on the website for weeks, ALJ Salapa’s July 8, 2009 Prehearing Conference Order was easily locatable and readily available to them.

9. The prehearing conference order established an intervention deadline for a reason. This proceeding is moving forward on an extremely truncated litigation schedule. The proceeding involves highly complex and technical issues. Based on the number of intervenors who filed their interventions by the deadline, a carefully crafted schedule of testimony, public input hearings, and discovery modifications was agreed upon. Discovery is underway, and public input hearings have already been held. An informal technical presentation was made to the intervenors to explain FirstEnergy’s EE&C plans and models in great detail. Initial settlement discussions have taken place with multiple parties. Dominion’s unreasonably late-filed intervention will now bring new issues to the table, in the middle of the shortened litigation schedule, after many of the parties have already exchanged information and attempted to narrow the issues in dispute.

10. Petitioner has no legitimate “right or interest” that warrants intervention in this proceeding because “fuel switching” or “fuel-substitution” measures are not proposed by the FirstEnergy Companies or presented as an issue in their EE&C plans. Notwithstanding ALJ Salapa’s clear and precise conclusions on the subject of fuel substitution in his July 31, 2009 Order as discussed above, Petitioner desires to “intervene in this matter so that the use of additional fuel substitution measures in Penelec’s EE&C Plan, particularly natural gas, is given due consideration.”

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8 Petition to Intervene of the People’s Natural Gas Company D/B/A Dominion Peoples, July 31, 2009 at paragraph 8.
Salapa concluded, it is simply “not reasonable to expect Met Ed and Penelec to expend resources responding to discovery regarding what is not in their proposed plans when the time period involved in this litigation is already short and the subject matter of fuel-switching has been deferred to another proceeding.”

WHEREFORE, for all of the foregoing reasons, Met-Ed, Penelec and Penn Power respectfully request that Dominion’s Petition to Intervene be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 5, 2009

Renard L. Hicks, Esquire
PA ID No. 40404
Stevens & Lee
17 North Second Street, 16th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-255-7364 - Telephone:
610-988-0851 - Fax
rlh@stevenslee.com
Counsel for Metropolitan Edison Company
Pennsylvania Electric Company
and Pennsylvania Power Company

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9 ORDER GRANTING PETITIONS TO INTERVENE OF UGI UTILITIES, INC.-GAS DIVISION, UGI PENN NATURAL GAS, INC. AND UGI CENTRAL PENN GAS, INC. AND DISMISSING THE REQUESTS TO INTERVENE OF COMPERIO ENERGY LLC D/B/A CLEARCHOICE ENERGY AND E CUBED COMPANY, LLC, at page 7, July 31, 2009.
BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION


CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing Answer to Petition to Intervene by first class mail and electronic mail upon the participants listed below in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code Section 1.54 and 1.55.

CANDIS A TUNILO ESQUIRE
AARON BEATTY ESQUIRE
TANYA MCCLOSKEY ESQUIRE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
5TH FLOOR FORUM PLACE
555 WALNUT STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17101-1923

DANIEL G ASMUS ESQUIRE
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE
1102 COMMERCE BUILDING
300 NORTH SECOND STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17101

CHARLES DANIEL SHIELDS ESQUIRE
CARRIE B WRIGHT ESQUIRE
PA PUC OFFICE OF TRIAL STAFF
PO BOX 3265
HARRISBURG PA 17105-3265

LILLIAN S HARRIS ESQUIRE
HAWKE MCKEON & SNISCAK LLP
100 NORTH TENTH STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17105
HARRY S GELLER ESQUIRE
118 LOCUST STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17101

ASPASSIA STAEVSKA ESQUIRE
SCOTT PERRY ESQUIRE
DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
400 MARKET STREET
9TH FLOOR
HARRISBURG PA 17101-2301

BARRY NAUM ESQUIRE
CHARIS MINCAVAGE ESQUIRE
SHELBY A LINTON-KEDDIE ESQUIRE
MCNEES WALLACE & NURICK
100 PINE STREET
PO BOX 1166
HARRISBURG PA 17108

CHRISTOPHER A SHARP ESQUIRE
CHRISTOPHER A LEWIS ESQUIRE
MELANIE J TAMBOLAS ESQUIRE
BLANK ROME LLP
ONE LOGAN SQUARE
130 NORTH 18TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA PA 19103-6998

KEVIN J MOODY ESQUIRE
ECKERT SEAMANS CHERIN & MELLOTT
213 MARKET STREET
18TH FLOOR
HARRISBURG PA 17101

VASILI KARANDRIKAS
MCNEES WALLACE & NURICK
100 PINE ST
HARRISBURG, PA 17108

LEE HARTZ
NATIONAL FUEL GAS
PO BOX 2081
ERIE, PA 16512

Dated: August 5, 2009

Michael Gruin