

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

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IRWINA. POPOWSKY
Consumer Advocate

September 2, 2009

James J. McNulty
Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Petition of Duquesne Light Company for
Approval of its Smart Meter Technology
Procurement and Installation Plan
Docket No. M-2009-2123948

Dear Secretary McNulty:

Enclosed for filing is the Notice of Intervention and Public Statement of the Office of Consumer Advocate, in the above-referenced proceeding.

Copies have been served as indicated on the enclosed Certificate of Service.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David T. Evrard".

David T. Evrard
Assistant Consumer Advocate
PA Attorney I.D. # 33870

Enclosures

cc: Honorable Robert P. Meehan
Office of Special Assistants

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BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Petition of Duquesne Light Company for :
Approval of its Smart Meter Technology : Docket No. M-2009-2123948
Procurement and Installation Plan :

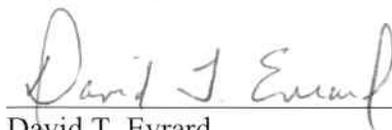
NOTICE OF INTERVENTION

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Sections 5.71-74, the Office of Consumer Advocate hereby gives Notice of Intervention in the above-captioned proceeding. A copy of all correspondence and notices, documents, orders or other communications with respect to the above-captioned proceeding should be addressed to the following:

David T. Evrard
Assistant Consumer Advocate
PA Attorney I.D. # 33870
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Tanya J. McCloskey
Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate
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Respectfully submitted,



David T. Evrard
Assistant Consumer Advocate
PA Attorney I.D. # 33870

DATED: September 1, 2009
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PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
PURSUANT TO 71 P.S. SECTION 309-4(e)

Act 161 of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, 71 P.S. Section 309-2, as enacted July 9, 1976, authorizes the Consumer Advocate to represent the interests of consumers before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC or Commission). In accordance with Act 161, and for the following reasons, the Consumer Advocate has determined to intervene and participate in the Petition of Duquesne Light Company for Approval of its Smart Meter Technology Procurement and Installation Plan (Plan) before the Commission.

On August 14, 2009, Duquesne Light Company (Duquesne or Company) filed its Petition with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) pursuant to Section 2807(f)(1) of the Public Utility Code and pursuant to the Implementation Order entered by the Commission at Docket No. M-2009-2092655 on June 24, 2009. Duquesne's Plan provides certain preliminary information but proposes to make use of the thirty-month grace period established by the Commission in its Implementation Order to develop the full details of the Plan. During the grace period Duquesne will: (1) make an assessment of its needs and potential technological solutions for meeting its smart metering requirements; (2) select the technologies and vendors to be used; (3) establish the network architecture for its smart metering program and integrate the network design with its existing meter network; (4) establish plans for training affected company personnel; (5) establish plans for installation, testing and rollout of smart meter support equipment and software; (6) establish plans to design, test and certify Electronic Data Interchange transactions, Web Access and Direct Access to facilitate interaction with electric generation suppliers and conservation service providers; and (7) establish plans for the actual installation of smart meters. Duquesne identifies specific milestone dates for the completion of each seven steps listed. Duquesne's Plan also includes a component related to consumer education on smart meters, and the Plan further proposes to

establish a Smart Meter Charge (SMC) pursuant to which Duquesne will recover all costs related to the development and implementation of its Plan. The SMC will take effect April 1, 2010, but Duquesne seeks authority to recover costs it has already incurred relative to its Plan. It proposes to recover these costs during the first year the SMC is in operation. Duquesne's proposed budget for the Plan is given in a range between \$152 million and \$262 million which Duquesne indicates it will be able to narrow and specify as grace period milestones are met.

The Consumer Advocate has determined to intervene in this proceeding to protect the interests of Duquesne's customers; to ensure that the proposed Plan is developed in accordance with the requirements of the Public Utility Code, applicable regulations and case law; to ensure that any increase in rates resulting from the adoption of the proposed Plan is just and reasonable; and to ensure that SMC cost recovery mechanism meets the requirements of the Public Utility Code relative to mechanisms for the automatic adjustment of rates. The Consumer Advocate will seek to ensure that consumer education materials prepared for customers relative to Smart Meter deployment are appropriate, accurate and informative, and the Consumer Advocate will also seek to ensure that the budget ultimately set by Duquesne for this project represents a prudent and reasonable amount that results in just and reasonable rates for Duquesne's customers.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Petition of Duquesne Light Company for :
Approval of its Smart Meter Technology : Docket No. M-2009-2123948
Procurement and Installation Plan :

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document, the Notice of Intervention and Public Statement of the Office of Consumer Advocate, upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code Section 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below:

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2009.

SERVICE BY E-MAIL and INTEROFFICE MAIL

Charles Daniel Shields, Esquire
Office of Trial Staff
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
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SERVICE BY E-MAIL and FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Counsel for: *Duquesne Light Company*

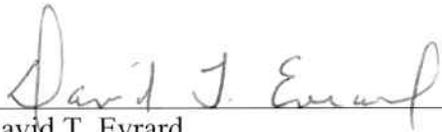
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