

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

**Petition of PECO Energy Company
for Approval of Smart Meter
Technology Procurement and
Installation Plan**

**Public Meeting June 3, 2010
2123944-OSA
Docket No. M-2009-2123944**

DISSENTING STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN TYRONE J. CHRISTY

I respectfully dissent from the majority's decision today, which directs PECO Energy Company (PECO):

- (1) to develop, test and implement a new set of EDI protocols to provide historic interval usage (HIU) data to EGSs by January 1, 2011; and
- (2) to provide previously-restricted customer information to EGSs without any documentation of the customer's authorization to release the information.

With regard to the first directive, the Commission is requiring PECO to have new EDI protocols in place when its rate caps are removed on January 1, 2011, despite the fact that the Commission's Electronic Data Exchange Work Group (EDEWG) will be issuing draft data exchange standards by November 1, 2010, and will be finalizing recommended data exchange standards by January 31, 2011. The EDEWG time frame would allow PECO to implement the protocols to provide HIU data by the end of the 30-month grace period in the Commission's Smart Meter Implementation Order.¹

Instead of waiting a couple of months for the EDEWG to finish its work, the Commission is requiring PECO to jump ahead of the EDEWG process, develop its own protocols, and then run the risk that the protocols that it develops will not comply with the protocols developed through the EDEWG.² The Commission's solution to this potential problem apparently is to require PECO to make future adjustments to its protocols as may be necessary. Toward that end, the Commission directs PECO to continue to work with the EDEWG to develop needed (and potentially costly) changes to the data exchange standards that are developed as a result of today's order. Given that full-scale deployment of smart meters in PECO's service territory will not begin until the end of the 30-month grace period in the Implementation Order, it doesn't make sense to require PECO to develop, test, and implement EDI HIU protocols by January 1, 2011. Since PECO currently is able to provide HIU data to EGSs through the PECO

¹ *Smart Meter Procurement and Installation*, Docket No. M-2009-2092655 (June 24, 2009).

² This concern is heightened by the fact that the EDEWG already has concluded that EDI protocols may not be the best means of delivering historic interval usage data. For a single meter providing 15-minute interval reads, 34,560 reads would be included in the 867 HIU transaction that currently is the standard in the industry. The EDEWG's Preliminary Proposal of December 11, 2009, stated that it would like to explore other methods for providing historical interval usage data, including web presentment or other internet delivery approaches.

“SUCCESS” EGS website, there does not seem to be an urgent need to have EDI HUI protocols in place on January 1, 2011.

The second directive requires PECO to provide previously-restricted customer information to EGSs without any documentation of the customer’s subsequent authorization to release the information. I previously expressed reservations about this requirement in the Commission’s Final Order in *PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Retail Markets*, Docket No. M-2009-2104271 (August 11, 2009). I believe that this directive may result in the unauthorized release of confidential information with negative results for both residential and commercial customers. It is not unduly burdensome to require EGSs to provide a copy of such authorizations to EDCs. This is, in fact, PECO’s current practice. Although I oppose this new directive, I agree with the portion of the Chairman’s statement that urges EGSs to retain customer authorizations in their files for three years.

For these reasons I dissent from the majority’s decision today.

6-3-10
DATE

Tyrone J. Christy
TYRONE J. CHRISTY, VICE CHAIRMAN