

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

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IRWINA. POPOWSKY
Consumer Advocate

December 2, 2011

Rosemary Chiavetta
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 Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing is the Answer 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: Office of Administrative Law Judge
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	:		

ANSWER OF THE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

On November 18, 2011, Duquesne Light Company (Duquesne or Company) filed with the Public Utility Commission (Commission) a Status Update of its previously accepted Smart Meter Procurement and Installation Plan (Plan), along with a request for a six month extension of time to file the final version of its Plan.

Duquesne's Plan was originally filed on August 14, 2009 and received Commission approval, with modifications, by Order entered May 11, 2010. The Plan, as approved, called for Duquesne to perform additional analysis with respect to its Smart Meter Program and to meet certain milestones leading up to the submission of the final version of its Plan on December 31, 2011.

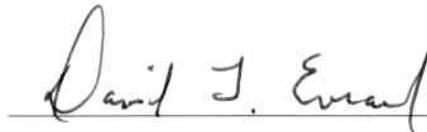
In its November 18 filing, Duquesne identifies a number of key elements to its Plan that require further evaluation and analysis in order that sound and cost-effective determinations can be made before incorporating these determinations in the Company's proposed final Plan.

Accordingly, Duquesne requests that the time for filing the final version of its Plan be extended from December 31, 2011, to June 30, 2012. Duquesne asserts that such an extension will not

affect its ability or timing to comply with Act 129, the statutory foundation for the Smart Meter Plan, or with Commission Orders implementing Act 129.

The Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) has reviewed Duquesne's November 18 filing and submits that the Company's request for an extension of time to file the final version of its Plan appears to be well-grounded and could result in a final Plan that is more beneficial for stakeholders, including ratepayers. Therefore, the OCA does not oppose Duquesne's request.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. Evrard". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

David T. Evrard
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December 2, 2011

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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 Answer 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 December 2011.

SERVICE BY E-MAIL and INTEROFFICE MAIL

Charles Daniel Shields, Esquire
Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

SERVICE BY E-MAIL and FIRST CLASS MAIL

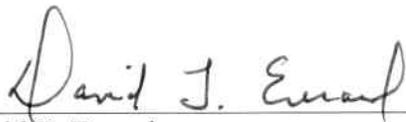
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