

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**Investigation of Pennsylvania's
Retail Electricity Market:
Intermediate Work Plan**

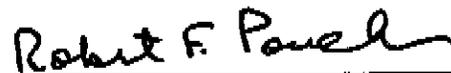
**Public Meeting March 1, 2012
DIR-2237952
Docket No. I-2011-2237952**

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN ROBERT F. POWELSON**

Today marks yet another important milestone in the Commission's ongoing investigation of Pennsylvania's retail electricity market. I strongly believe that the steps taken today will significantly improve the competitiveness of our retail electricity market and enhance the ability of our electric generation suppliers to compete across the state.

Among the improvements finalized today is an opt-in auction for residential customers. During my deliberations, I strongly considered whether small commercial and industrial customers should be included in this program but ultimately decided not to include this group. However, I remain open to designing a similar measure for the business community in the future and will be closely watching the residential opt-in auction. I believe that the experience gained from this process as well as focusing on this segment of customers during our upcoming *en banc* hearing will allow the Commission to make an informed decision on a possible second auction.

Lastly, I must thank our OCMO team, which, under the leadership of our Director of Regulatory Operations, has put forth yet another exceptional Order for our consideration. I know countless hours have been spent on this endeavor and I truly appreciate all of your hard work.



**ROBERT F. POWELSON
CHAIRMAN**

DATE: March 1, 2012