

KENNETH L. MICKENS, ESQUIRE LLC legal consulting

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

> Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Docket No. R-2012-2290597 - Petition to Intervene of the Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing with the Commission are an original and three (3) copies of the Petition to Intervene of the Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania ("SEF") in the above-captioned proceeding. I have also enclosed the Affidavit of Jennifer Hopkins, the President of SEF. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Kenth J. h

May 3, 2012

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ECRETARY'S BUREAU

Kenneth L. Mickens, Esquire Attorney for the Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania

KLM/bls Certificate of Service Enclosures

316 YORKSHIRE DRIVE HARRISBURG, PA 17111-6933 OFFICE (717) 343-3338 FAX (717) 657-0938 kmickensl 1@verizon.net

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Distribution Rate Increase Request :

Docket No. R-2012-2290597

PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND OF CENTRAL EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

The Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania ("SEF"), by and through its attorney, Kenneth L. Mickens, hereby files this Petition to Intervene in the above-captioned proceeding pursuant to 52 Pa. Code δ 5.71, *et. seq.* In support of its intervention, SEF avers as follows:

I. BACKGROUND

1. On March 30, 2012, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation ("PPL Electric" or "Company") filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("Commission") a request for approval of an overall annual increase in distribution revenues of approximately \$104.6 million based on a future test year ending December 31, 2012, and a proposed allowed rate of

return on equity of 11.25 percent. If granted by the Commission as filed, this request would produce a system average increase in distribution rates of approximately 13 percent and an increase in total rates (distribution, transmission and generation charges) of approximately 2.9 percent for default service customers. PPL Electric Statement of Reasons, p. 1.

PPL Electric states that the increase is attributable to: (1) reduced revenue resulting from lower customer usage and a stagnant economic climate; (2) the need to accelerate capital investment programs to maintain reliability and replace aging infrastructure; (3) support for the development and expansion of the competitive retail electricity market; and, (4) major storm damage in PPL Electric's service area during 2011. PPL Electric Statement of Reasons, p. 1.

3. SEF is a Pennsylvania corporation established at the conclusion of PPL Electric's Restructuring proceeding and pursuant to the terms of the Joint Settlement of that proceeding, approved by the Commission's August 27, 1998 Order at Docket No. R-00973954. SEF's mission is to promote and invest in energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy and energy education in order to provide opportunities and benefits for PPL Electric ratepayers.

4. SEF's address is as follows:

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The Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania 1005 Brookside Road, Suite 210 Allentown, PA 18106

5. The name, address and telephone number of SEF's attorney are:

Kenneth L. Mickens, Esq. PA Attorney I.D. #31255 316 Yorkshire Drive Harrisburg, PA 17111 <u>kmickens11@verizon.net</u> (e-mail) (717) 343-3338 (Telephone) (717) 657-0938 (FAX)

II. SEF's INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDING

6. SEF's mission, as mentioned above, is to promote and invest in energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy and energy education that provide opportunities and benefits for PPL Electric customers. In furtherance of its mission, SEF is engaged in projects that emphasize renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power development, clean energy technologies, energy conservation and efficiency, as well as energy education. In this regard, SEF has been certified as a Conservation Services Provider.

7. SEF's mission, in large part, is focused on reductions in consumption and demand for the non-renewable, non-sustainable production of electricity within the PPL Electric service territory. As such, this mission coincides with the Company's stated efforts in this distribution

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rate increase proceeding to move towards distribution rates that are more demand and customer dependent and less energy dependent. Specifically, SEF is interested in how the Company's proposed rate increase will impact energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. SEF is also concerned about the Company's proposed modification to the Net Metering for Customer-Generators Rider and its impact on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. In addition, SEF would like to explore the impact of PPL Electric's net metering proposals on third-party business model systems. Further, SEF is concerned about the Company's Time-of-Use rates tariff and how such rates may be impacted by this filing.

8. Accordingly, SEF's intervention is necessary to ensure the development of a complete record on the reasonableness of the proposed distribution rate increase request. SEF has a unique perspective, in keeping with its mission to promote and invest in energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy and energy education that provide opportunities and benefits for PPL Electric ratepayers that cannot be represented by any other party to this proceeding. SEF submits that this unique interest coincides with the public interest and should be considered by the Commission.

9. Moreover, SEF has experience and expertise in matters of

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energy efficiency, energy conservation and consumer education such that its participation in this proceeding would benefit the record.

10. SEF intends to actively participate in this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons discussed herein, the Sustainable

Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania requests that the Pennsylvania

Public Utility Commission grant its Petition to Intervene in the above-

captioned proceeding and grant it full party status.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenth J. hunter

Kenneth L. Mickens, Esq. PA Attorney I.D. #31255 316 Yorkshire Drive Harrisburg, PA 17111 E-Mail: <u>kmickens11@verizon.net</u> Telephone: (717) 343-3338 FAX: (717) 657-0938

Attorney for The Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania

DATED: May 3, 2012

AFFIDAVIT

I, Jennifer Hopkins, certify that I am the President of the Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania and that, in said capacity, I am authorized to and do make this Affidavit for it, that the facts set forth in the foregoing document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that I expect the Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania to be able to prove the same at any hearing hereof. I understand that false statements made herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. Section 4904, relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

Jenrififer Hopkins, President Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania

DATED: May 3, 2012

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing Petition to Intervene via first-class mail upon the following participants in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code Section 1.54, *et. seq.* (relating to service by a participant):

David B. MacGregor, Esquire Post & Schell, P.C. Four Penn Center 1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 17103-2808

Paul E. Russell, Esquire Associate General Counsel PPL Services Corporation Two North Ninth Street Allentown, PA 18101

Irwin A. Popowski, Esquire Office of Consumer Advocate 555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Forum Place Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

Johnnie E. Simms, Esquire Office of Trial Staff Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265 RECEIVED 2012 HAY -3 PH 12: 54 SECRETARY'S BURE AU

Steven C. Gray, Esquire Office of Small Business Advocate Suite 1102 Commerce Building 300 North Second Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

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Kenneth L. Mickens, Esq.

Dated: May 3, 2012