**BEFORE THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Bureau :

Of Investigation & Enforcement : :

 v. : C-2019-3011675

 :

Metropolitan Edison Company :

**INTERIM ORDER**

**CONTINUING PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

 On July 22, 2019, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (BIE) filed a formal complaint against Metropolitan-Edison Company (Met-Ed), alleging that Met-Ed violated certain provisions of the Public Utility Code, regulations and National Electric Safety Code related to the company’s installation and/or maintenance of certain facilities. BIE alleges that Met-Ed’s failure to properly maintain its facilities caused an electricity line to fall to the ground and resulted in a fatal electrocution and property damage on July 26, 2016, in Easton, Pennsylvania. As relief BIE seeks civil penalties in the amount of $4,533,000 and numerous corrective measures.

 Met-Ed filed an answer and new matter along with preliminary objections on October 31, 2019.[[1]](#footnote-1) Met-Ed denied the material allegations of the complaint, and raised affirmative defenses in its new matter. BIE filed a response to the preliminary objections and answer to the new matter on November 20, 2019.[[2]](#footnote-2)

 By notice dated January 9, 2020, this matter was assigned to me and scheduled for a prehearing conference on March 3, 2020. By interim order dated January 16, 2020, Met-Ed’s preliminary objections were dismissed. A prehearing conference order was also issued.

 By letter dated February 26, 2020, Met-Ed requested a 60-day continuance of the prehearing conference. Met-Ed represented that BIE concurs with the request and that the additional time would permit the parties to engage in settlement discussions.

THEREFORE

IT IS ORDERED:

 1. That Met-Ed’s request for a continuance of the March 3, 2020 prehearing conference is granted.

 2. That the prehearing conference is rescheduled for Monday, May 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

 3. That three business days prior to the May 4, 2020 prehearing conference the parties shall present a proposed litigation schedule. That litigation schedule may include settlement conferences in the event the parties’ settlement talks to date have been productive.

 4. That all other provisions of the prehearing conference order dated January 16, 2020 remain in effect.

Date: February 27, 2020 /s/

 Mary D. Long

 Administrative Law Judge

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1. By Secretarial Letter dated August 16, 2019, Met-Ed was granted an extension of time to file its answer.
 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. By Secretarial Letter dated November 12, 2019, BIE was granted an extension of time to file its response. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)