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Devin Ryan

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March 27, 2020

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan for 2017-2019 Submitted in Compliance with 52 Pa. Code § 54.74

<u>Docket No. M-2016-2554787</u>

## Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation ("PPL Electric" or the "Company") respectfully submits this letter requesting that the Company's Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan ("USECP") be temporarily amended to increase the number of customers who can qualify for assistance under the Operation HELP program. As explained in the USECP, Operation HELP is a hardship fund supported by donations from PPL Corporation, its employees, retirees, and customers. The program targets low-income customers who have overdue balances and an inability to pay the full amount of their energy bills. The primary features of Operation HELP include: (1) direct financial assistance for overdue energy bills; (2) protection against shutoffs; and (3) referrals to other programs and services.

Due to the emergency situation involving the COVID-19 outbreak, PPL Electric wants to expand the number of customers who can qualify for assistance under Operation HELP through the end of 2020.

Accordingly, through this letter, PPL Electric proposes to temporarily change the definition of "low-income" under its Operation HELP program from annual incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level ("FPL") to annual incomes at or below 250 percent of the FPL. Such change to the definition would remain effective through the end of 2020. Consistent with the

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Company's current practices, OnTrack ("CAP") customers will remain eligible to receive Operation HELP hardship assistance.

Prior to filing this letter, PPL Electric consulted with the Office of Consumer Advocate ("OCA") and the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania ("CAUSE-PA") about the instant proposal. The Company is authorized to represent that OCA and CAUSE-PA do not oppose the temporary change to Operation HELP's definition of "low-income."

Copies of this letter are being provided electronically only, as indicated on the Certificate of Service, due to the current closure of all non-life sustaining businesses in the Commonwealth upon direction of Governor Wolf.

Respectfully submitted,

Devin Ryan

DTR/jl Enclosure

cc: Certificate of Service Joseph Magee Alexis Bechtel

Louise Fink Smith

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

## VIA E-MAIL ONLY

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Date: March 27, 2020

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