**BEFORE THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Petition of Metropolitan Edison Company for : P-2021-3030012

Approval of Its Default Service Plan for the Period :

From June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2027 :

Petition of Pennsylvania Electric Company for : P-2021-3030013

Approval of Its Default Service Plan for the Period :

From June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2027 :

Petition of Pennsylvania Power Company for : P-2021-3030014

Approval of Its Default Service Plan for the Period :

From June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2027 :

Petition of West Penn Power Company for : P-2021-3030021

Approval of Its Default Service Plan for the Period :

From June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2027 :

**PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER**

On December 14, 2021, Metropolitan Edison Company, Pennsylvania Electric Company, Pennsylvania Power Company, and West Penn Power Company (the Companies or Joint Petitioners) filed a Joint Petition for Approval of Default Service Plan (Petition or Joint Petition) at the Docket Numbers identified above. The Petition was filed pursuant to Section 2807(e) of the Public Utility Code.

Notice of the Petition was provided for publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on January 1, 2022. To become a party in this proceeding, an answer, protest or petition to intervene must be filed **on or before January 18, 2022**.

Currently, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is following certain guidelines with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission’s offices are open on a limited basis and the presiding officer is teleworking and working at the Commission offices at certain times. As a result, the ability of the undersigned presiding officer to access either incoming or outgoing regular mail delivery may be delayed at times.

In accordance with the provisions of 66 Pa.C.S.A. § 333 and 52 Pa.Code §§ 5.221 – 5.223, a Telephonic Initial Prehearing Conference has been scheduled in the above-captioned case.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That an Initial Prehearing Conference shall be held telephonically at **10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 21, 2022**. The toll-free bridge number to call-in is:
**866-675-4281** and thePIN Number needed to join the Conference is: **85057514**.
2. That absent a continuance for good cause, all parties must be prepared to participate in the scheduled prehearing conference. Failure of a party to participate in the conference, without good cause shown, shall constitute a waiver of all objections to the agreements reached and an order or ruling with respect thereto.
3. That all parties shall review the regulations relating to discovery, specifically 52 Pa.Code § 5.331(b), which provides, among other things, that “a party shall initiate discovery as early in the proceedings as reasonably possible,” and 52 Pa.Code § 5.322, which encourages parties to exchange information on an informal basis. All parties are urged to cooperate in discovery. There are limitations on discovery and sanctions for abuse of the discovery process. 52 Pa.Code §§5.361, 5.371 – 5.372.
4. That pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§1.21 – 1.23, you may represent yourself, if you are an individual, or you may have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*, represent you. However, if you are a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, you must have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*, represent you in this proceeding. Unless you are an attorney, you may not represent someone else. Attorneys shall insure that their appearance is entered in accordance with the provisions of 52 Pa.Code § 1.24(b).
5. That all parties are encouraged to have an e-filing account, to sign up for e-service online, and to accept service from the Commission electronically until further notice.
6. That all Parties are required to provide an email address to the Presiding Officer as part of their contact information.
7. That all Parties must serve the undersigned Presiding Officer and my legal assistant Nick Miskanic directly with an electronic copy of any document that is filed in this proceeding at jeffwatson@pa.gov and nmiskanic@pa.gov. If you send me any correspondence or document, you must send a copy to all other parties. For your convenience, a copy of the Commission’s current service list of the parties to this proceeding is enclosed with this Order.
8. That the parties shall review the regulation pertaining to prehearing conferences, 52 Pa.Code § 5.222, and in particular, subsection (d) which provides, in part:

(d) Parties and counsel will be expected to attend the conference fully prepared for useful discussion of all problems involved in the proceeding, both procedural and substantive, and fully authorized to make commitments with respect thereto.

1. That all of the following matters shall be considered at the prehearing conference:
2. The possibility for settlement of the proceeding, subject to the Commission’s approval.

(b) Whether the matter should be decided upon legal briefs, or whether a hearing is necessary.

(c) If a hearing is required, a procedural schedule will be discussed including the amount of hearing time necessary to dispose of the proceeding.

(d) Arrangements for the submission of direct testimony of witnesses in writing in advance of the hearing to the extent practicable, and for the submission in advance of hearing of written requests for information which a party contemplates asking another party to present at hearing.

(e) Other matters that may aid in expediting the orderly conduct and disposition of the proceeding and the furtherance of justice, including, but not limited to the following:

 (i) The exchange and acceptance of exhibits proposed to be offered into evidence.

 (ii) The obtaining of admissions as to, or stipulations of, facts not remaining in dispute, or the authenticity of documents which might properly shorten the hearing.

 (iii) The limitation of the number of witnesses.

 (iv) The discovery or production of date or other material.

1. That on or before **Thursday, January 20, 2022**, **by noon**, the parties shall serve the presiding officer and each other electronically with a Prehearing Conference Memorandum addressing each of the subjects included in Paragraph 7 above **and also advising the presiding officer whether they intend to call into the initial prehearing conference**.

Date: January 3, 2022 /s/

 Jeffrey A. Watson

 Administrative Law Judge

**P-2021-3030012 et al – Petition of Metropolitan Edison Company for approval of Default Service Program**

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