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| PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION **HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120** | | |
| **Voluntary Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program** |  | **Public Meeting December17, 2009**  **2142851-LAW**  **Docket No. M-2009-2142851** | |

**STATEMENT OF**

**COMMISSIONER ROBERT F. POWELSON**

By this action today, the Commission is setting the framework for the Commonwealth’s electric distribution companies (EDCs) with less than 100,000 customers to voluntarily file energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) plans. While I am voting for the issuance of this framework, I would like to clarify the basis of my support.

I am extremely cognizant of the fact that the Legislature specifically exempted these companies from the requirements set forth in Act 129, which mandated EE&C plans for EDCs with 100,000 customers or more. I wish to make it clear that, by today’s action, we are in no way mandating that the smaller EDCs file EE&C plans of the scope mandated by Act 129, or even file EE&C plans at all.

I believe these EDCs should only file plans if, after careful scrutiny, it is determined that doing so is in the best interest of their customers. Further, companies filing plans should determine the proper scale and scope of the measures in their proposed plans; in many cases it may be prudent to file plans that are less expansive, with lower reduction targets, than those filed by the larger EDCs.

Further, today’s action does not impose any time frame requirements for the filing of EE&C plans. While customers certainly may be better able to absorb the initial administrative costs associated with EE&C plans while wholesale prices are low, because the cost of energy efficiency and conservation measures are generally static or declining, EE&C actually becomes more cost effective the higher wholesale prices climb. Thus, we are in no way limiting a company’s ability to file an EE&C plan months or even years from now.

**DATE: December 17, 2009 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**ROBERT F. POWELSON**

**COMMISSIONER**