

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  
**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265**

**Re: PPL Electric Utilities  
Corporation Universal Service  
and Energy Conservation Plan  
for 2011 through 2013**

**Public Meeting: May 5, 2011  
2179796-ALJ  
Docket No. M-2010-2179796**

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JAMES H. CAWLEY**

On June 1, 2010, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL) filed its Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 54.71-54.78. One component of the plan approved today establishes a mechanism which allows low-income customers and residential customers, in general, to benefit from a competitive marketplace.

Specifically, this is a shared savings proposal for PPL's OnTrack customers (those eligible customers who receive discounts based on their ability to pay). If an OnTrack customer selects an Electric Generation Supplier (EGS) and the monthly savings amount is \$5 or more for a non-heating account and \$10 or more for a heating account, the Company would split the savings between the customer (60 percent) and the Universal Service Rider (USR) (40 percent). If an OnTrack customer selects an EGS and the monthly savings are at least 10 percent lower than PPL's Price-to-Compare, PPL would split the savings between the customer and the USR in 2011. Furthermore, if an OnTrack participant selects an EGS whose cost is higher than the Price-to-Compare, the OnTrack participant is responsible to pay those excess costs.

These provisions will empower a low-income customer to take control of his or her energy costs, and begin to understand energy prices and how to reduce them. This provision will also provide some relief to all residential customers in the form of lower Universal Service Program (USP) Costs. In essence, this provision empowers low income customers not only to reduce their costs, but to reduce the burden of USP costs on all ratepayers. PPL and the other participants in this case should be applauded for their efforts to bring the benefits of competitive markets to all customers.

I strongly encourage other utilities, and in particular PECO, to empower all its customers to take charge of their energy costs and to monitor the energy prices they pay. Utilities should not directly or indirectly prohibit low-income customers on payment assistance programs from benefiting from the competitive marketplace. Such a policy costs all consumers unnecessarily.

**DATE: May 5, 2011**

  
**James H. Cawley, Commissioner**