

January 14, 2013

Via e-file

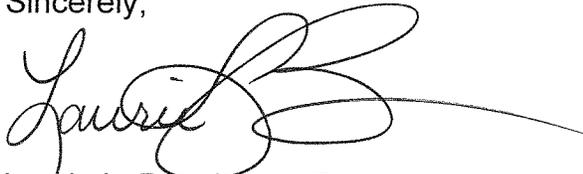
Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary
Pennsylvania Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: PUC Docket No. M-2012-2290911
PECO's Amended Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan for 2013-2015**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached, please find PCADV's ***Petition to Intervene*** in the above captioned proceeding. Copies of these documents have been served in accordance with the attached Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,



Laurie L. Baughman, Esq.

Enclosures

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Petition of PECO Energy Company for Approval of its Default Service Program	:	
	:	P-2012-2283641
PECO Energy Company Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan for 2013-2015	:	
	:	M-2012-2290911

**PETITION TO INTERVENE BY
THE PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence hereby files this Petition to Intervene in the captioned proceeding, pursuant to the provisions of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.71-5.76, and in support, states as follows:

1. On October 15, PECO filed a Revised Universal Service Plan for the years 2013-2015 with the PUC.
2. On November 8, the PUC issued an Order requesting comments on PECO's revised plan. In relevant part, the PUC asked for comments on PECO's Social Security number requirement and its requirement that Customer Assistance Program (CAP) applicants submit notarized income verification forms.
3. On November 28, PCADV submitted comments to the PUC to address its concern that PECO's revised plan would pose safety and economic stability risks to victims of domestic violence, especially foreign-born victims. PCADV's comments specifically addressed its concern for two discreet aspects of the plan: (1) to require customers to provide social security numbers for each household member in order to enroll in CAP, and (2) to require CAP applicants to submit a notarized income verification form at a cost to the customer.

4. On January 3, the PUC issued a Secretarial Letter that assigned PECO's CAP Plan to the Office of Administrative Law Judge to conduct any necessary evidentiary hearings and briefing and certify the record to the Commission. This proceeding will address – in part – the issues and concerns discussed in PCADV's comments.

5. PCADV is a private non-profit organization that provides services and advocacy on behalf of victims of domestic violence and their minor children.

6. PCADV is located at 3605 Vartan Way, Suite 101, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

7. PCADV was established in 1976 and, in its 30 years of operation, has grown to a membership of 60 organizations across Pennsylvania. Collectively, our member programs have provided safety and refuge to nearly two million victims and children from every corner of the Commonwealth.

8. PCADV has 10 member programs that operate and serve victims of domestic violence within the PECO service territory that includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia and York counties.

9. PCADV's member programs provide a range of life-saving services, including emergency shelters, hotlines, counseling programs, safe home networks, legal and medical advocacy projects, and transitional housing projects for victims of abuse and their children.

10. Eligibility to intervene in Commission proceedings is governed by 52 Pa. Code § 5.72. This section provides, in relevant part, that “[a] petition to intervene may be filed by a person claiming a right to intervene or an interest of such nature that intervention is necessary or appropriate to the administration of the statute under which the proceeding is brought.” 52 Pa. Code § 5.72(a).

11. Section 5.72 further provides that the right or interest may be one “which may be directly affected and which is not adequately represented by existing participants, and as to which the petitioner may be bound by the action of the Commission in the proceeding.” 52 Pa. Code § 5.72(a)(2).

12. Even though Section 5.72 speaks of the rights of a “person” to intervene, the Commonwealth Court has consistently stated that “an association may have standing as a representative of its members . . . as long as an organization has at least one member who has or will suffer a direct, immediate, and substantial injury to an interest as a result of the challenged action, [i.e., is aggrieved, the organization] has standing.” *Energy Cons. Council of Pa. v. Pa. P.U. C.*, 995 A.2d 465, 476 (Pa. Commw. 2010) (alteration in original) (citing *Tripps Park v. Pa. P.U. C.*, 415 A.2d 967 (Pa. Commw. 1980); *Parents United for Better Schools v. School District of Philadelphia*, 614 A.2d 689 (Pa. Commw. 1994)).

13. The Social Security number and notarization requirements in PECO’s revised plan would impose economic hardship on victims of domestic violence, especially those victims who are foreign-born, and could place victims of domestic violence at risk of physical harm. Victims of domestic violence often face unique financial challenges when attempting to leave their abusers and establish a home free from violence. Barrier-free access to utility assistance programs can be key to the success of a victim in establishing economic independence.

14. If PECO’s revised plan were approved without elimination of the Social Security number and notarization requirements, PCADV’s member programs within the PECO service territory would suffer substantial harm because the requirements create additional financial and logistical barriers to the victims and families those programs serve. Assisting victims to address these barriers would add significant costs to our member programs’ operating costs, would detract from the time advocates and counselors are able to spend discussing other issues with victims and their families, and may increase the number of victims seeking emergency shelter should their utilities be shut off.

15. The interests of PCADV and its members are not adequately represented by other participants.

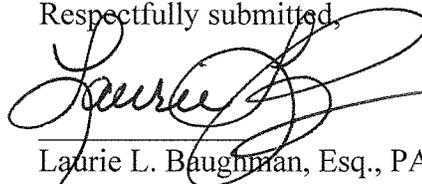
16. Because at least one member of PCADV has or will suffer a direct, immediate, and substantial injury to an interest as a result of this proceeding, PCADV has standing to intervene. *See Energy Cons. Council of Pa.*, 995 A.2d at 476.

17. PCADV is represented in this proceeding by:

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WHEREFORE, PCADV respectfully requests that the Public Utility Commission enter an order granting PCADV full status as an intervener in this proceeding with active party status.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 14, 2013

VERIFICATION

I, Peg Dierkers, hereby state that the facts contained in the foregoing petition are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that I am duly authorized to make this Verification. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).



Peg Dierkers, Executive Director
**Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic
Violence**

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Dated: January 14, 2013

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PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the **Petition to Intervene of The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence**, as set forth below in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a party).

VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

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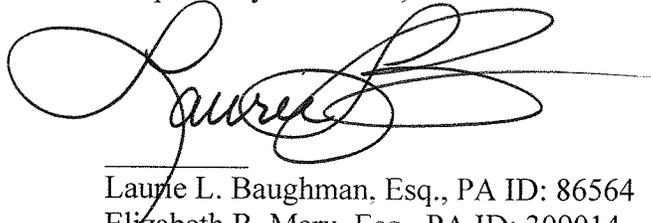
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie L. Baughman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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