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Senate of Pennsylvania

**TIMOTHY J. SOLOBAY
46TH DISTRICT**

August 25, 2014

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

Re: PUC Case Docket Numbers:

West Penn R-2014-2428742

Penelec R-2014-2428743

Penn Power R-2014-2428744

Met Ed R-2014-2428745

Dear Ms. Chiavetta:

We submit these comments as the State Senator representing the 46th District, which encompasses Greene and most of Washington counties, and the State Representative whose 50th Legislative District includes Greene and segments of Washington and Fayette counties.

The above-referenced comprehensive distribution rate filings, if approved, would present an even greater hardship for our constituents and electricity customers who have already been dealt a devastating blow at the hand of First Energy's, which deactivated its Hatfield's Ferry and Mitchell power plants last year. We respectfully request that this letter be reviewed by the presiding officer in the case, as well as the parties to the proposed rate increase and Commission staff.

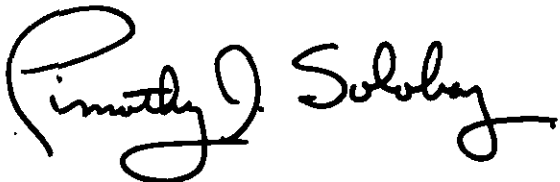
The detrimental economic impact on southwestern Pennsylvania in terms of the loss of jobs and tax revenues and the effect upon the coal industry has already been realized and will be profound and lasting. Of paramount concern was the detrimental impact that the decrease in electricity generation would have on the safety, reliability, and security of the power grid and service to our constituency. Despite the assurances of PJM Interconnection (PJM) and FirstEnergy that the closure of the Hatfield's Ferry and Mitchell power plants would not affect the reliability of the power grid, below-zero temperatures in January of 2014 caused local utility officials to ask industrial customers and consumers to curtail power consumption.

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This area of the Commonwealth, already plagued by extended power outages due to insufficient FirstEnergy line maintenance and on-the-ground personnel in addition to an apparent unreliable power grid, should not be further victimized by even higher electricity costs. We understand FirstEnergy is estimating that across their Pennsylvania operating companies, the average bill increase would be \$16.59 per month for residential consumers – excessive for the distressed areas we represent.

We stand ready to testify in opposition to the proposed rate increases and, by copy of this letter to the Commissioners, are requesting public input hearings in both Washington and Greene counties. Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Solobay
State Senator – 46th District



Pam Snyder
State Representative – 50th District

CC: Chairman Robert F. Powelson
Vice Chairman John F. Coleman Jr.
Commissioner James H. Cawley
Commissioner Pamela A. Witmer
Commissioner Gladys Brown
June Perry, Director, Office of Legislative Affairs

Senate of Pennsylvania

46TH DISTRICT
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