

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PA 17120**

**Petition of Duquesne Light Company
For An Extension of Time or Waiver
To Meet Certain Regulatory Requirements**

**Public Meeting – July 30, 2015
2484590-LAW
Docket No. P-2015-2484590**

**JOINT STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER PAMELA A. WITMER AND CHAIRMAN GLADYS M. BROWN**

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) today is the May 28, 2015 Petition of Duquesne Light Company (Duquesne) requesting an extension of time and/or a waiver to implement certain regulatory requirements. These waiver requests impact the following actions: (1) to remit actual bill amounts to electric generation suppliers (EGSs) for residential customers on budget billing; (2) to provide a joint bill with suppliers; (3) to provide EGSs with bill ready capability; (4) to implement a Time of Use Program during the summer of 2015; and (5) to file the Company's Phase I implementation roadmap and cost benefit analysis for enhanced outage communication and voltage monitoring functionality.

We support today's action granting the Petition and requiring that Duquesne file quarterly status update reports regarding the implementation of these regulatory requirements. We recognize that implementation of an entirely new FOCUS system,¹ as Duquesne is undertaking, is not without unforeseen challenges and impacts. We also appreciate Duquesne's recent efforts to keep the Commission better apprised of issues with the FOCUS system, as well as the need to prioritize enhancements. However, we remain concerned with Duquesne's numerous waiver petitions, reconsideration requests, and time extension requests that relate back to its implementation of FOCUS. Regulatory requirements such as the ones discussed in today's Petition exist to better enhance our electric distribution companies' (EDC) capabilities to interact with EGSs in order to bolster the competitiveness and success of our retail electric market.

Delaying implementation of these regulatory requirements negatively impacts Duquesne's customers by not affording them the same opportunities that exist in other EDC service territories. By way of example, Joint Bill implementation, addressed in today's proceeding, is an important education mechanism for consumers and more clearly delineates the roles of EDCs and EGSs. The absence of consumer education tools such as this is a detriment to consumers and to the competitive market.

¹ As described in its Petition, Duquesne's FOCUS System/Project is a complex, multifaceted Oracle-based technology implementation that impacts virtually all of the Company's business and customer service operations on a daily basis. Petition at 3.

While we support the granting of the extensions in the Petition before us today, we will not be as tolerant of further requests that seek to elongate the implementation of our regulations absent good cause shown. To that end, we strongly suggest that Duquesne mitigate the need for any further waiver requests.

DATE: July 30, 2015


PAMELA A. WITMER
COMMISSIONER


GLADYS M. BROWN
CHAIRMAN