

THE CHAMBER

The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce

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2015 AUG 24 AM 11:19
PA P.U.C. BUREAU
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

August 19, 2015

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: Docket No. R-2015-2469275
PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Proposed Rate Increase

To Whom It May Concern:

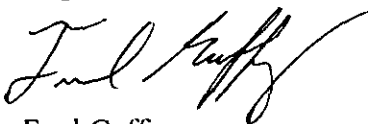
The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce represents approximately 600 organizations located in Columbia and Montour counties and beyond. We have been researching the above referenced request and requested additional information from the company. While we realize the public comment period has ended, we have a number of unanswered questions and are hoping the PUC will request clarification in making a final determination in this matter.

From a company press release dated March 31, 2015, "Almost all of the increase we are requesting will go directly into enhancing the reliability of our electric system..." Greg Dudkin, PPL Electric Utilities President. To ensure that the rate request does not unnecessarily burden local businesses and residents, we sent a letter to Mr. Paul Wirth, Senior Manager of Transmission Communications with PPL Electric Utilities, on May 15th, 2015, requesting detail on the other reasons for the increase eluded to in Mr. Dudkin's statement. A copy of that letter is enclosed. The letter asked what portion of the requested increase would be for direct infrastructure improvements, what the balance of those costs include, and what measures PPL has taken and plans to take to manage those costs. Also, does the company intend to use any funds from its capital surplus or retained earnings for enhancements? If not, why?

In response to this letter, were sent the "Statement of Reasons" document as part of the PUC filing. This document does not directly respond to our questions. Therefore, we do not feel we have sufficient information to make a determination on the appropriateness of PPL's request.

We would appreciate any details you might have related to these questions or efforts to obtain the information we've requested. I can be contacted at 570-784-2522 or fgaffney@cmpartnership.org. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,



Fred Gaffney
President

/attachment

238 Market Street • Bloomsburg, PA 17815
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e-mail: chamber@ColumbiaMontourChamber.com
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The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce

May 15, 2015

Paul Wirth
PPL Electric Utilities
827 Hausman Road
Allentown, PA 18104-9392

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PA P.U.C.
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Dear Mr. Wirth;

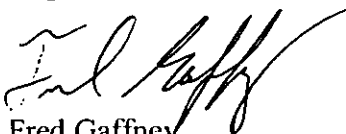
The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce represents approximately 620 organizations located in Columbia and Montour counties and beyond. Our joint Governmental Affairs Committee with the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau meets monthly to address issues that impact these members, and all area employers. The Committee is requesting additional information regarding your rate increase request with the Public Utility Commission.

According to a company press release dated March 31, 2015, if the entire amount of the request is approved, rates would increase from 6.9 percent for residential customers to 1.2 percent for industrial customers. "Almost all of the increase we are requesting will go directly into enhancing the reliability of our electric system..." according to Greg Dudkin, PPL Electric Utilities President. "At the same time, we are focused on operating more efficiently to make sure electric service from PPL remains a good value for our customers."

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of PPL Electric Utilities to improve the reliability of service to customers. To ensure that the rate request does not unnecessarily burden our members and residents, we are asking for detail on the other reasons for the increase. We understand the employee benefit costs are part of the need. Please provide detail on what portion of the increase will be for direct infrastructure improvements, what the balance of those costs include, and what measures PPL has taken and plans to take to manage those costs. Also, does PPL intend to use any funds from its capital surplus or retained earnings for enhancements? If not, why?

Feel free to contact me at 570-784-2522 or fgaffney@cmpartnership.org to discuss the matter further. We appreciate your attention.

Regards,

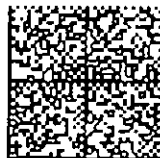
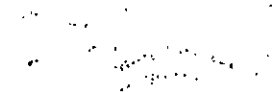


Fred Gaffney
President

cc: Teri MacBride

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