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October 1, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Renee MacIntire v. Metropolitan Edison Company
Docket No. C-2015-2502968

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached please find the Preliminary Objections of Metropolitan Edison Company in the above-referenced matter. This document has been served on the Complainant as shown in the Certificate of Service.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


Tori L. Giesler

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Enclosures

c: As per Certificate of Service

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

RENEE MACINTIRE

v.

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

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Docket No. C-2015-2502968

NOTICE TO PLEAD

TO: Renee MacIntire

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.101 you are hereby notified that if you do not file a reply to the enclosed Preliminary Objections of Metropolitan Edison Company within ten (10) days from service of this notice, the facts set forth by Metropolitan Edison Company in the Preliminary Objections may be deemed to be admitted, thereby requiring no other proof. All pleadings, such as a Reply to Objection, must be filed with the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, with a copy service to counsel for Metropolitan Edison Company, and where applicable, the Administrative Law Judge presiding over the case.


File with:

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

With a copy to:

Tori L. Giesler
FirstEnergy Service Company
2800 Pottsville Pike
P.O. Box 16001
Reading, Pennsylvania 19612-6001

Date: October 1, 2015


Tori L. Giesler

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

RENEE MACINTIRE

v.

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

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Docket No. C-2015-2502968

**PRELIMINARY OBJECTION TO THE FORMAL COMPLAINT OF
RENEE MACINTIRE**

TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

AND NOW, Metropolitan Edison Company ("Met-Ed" or the "Company"), by and through its counsel, Tori L. Giesler, files this Preliminary Objection pursuant to Section 5.101(a) of Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("Commission") regulations, 52 Pa. Code § 5.101(a)(1), and in support thereof, avers as follows:

I. Introduction

1. In her recently filed Formal Complaint, Renee MacIntire ("Complainant") alleges she sustained damages to personal property located at 1233 Totts Gap Hill Road, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18360 ("Service Location") as a result of electric power outages experienced on several different dates between 2008 and 2015. (Compl. ¶ 4.) The Complainant requests that the Commission direct Met-Ed to financially reimburse her for alleged personal property losses. (Compl. ¶ 5.)

2. As explained below, the Commission does not have the power and legal authority to award monetary damages. As a result, the Company requests that this Preliminary Objection be granted and that the Commission: (i) strike all allegations in the Formal Complaint regarding monetary damages; (ii) expressly prohibit the Complainant from introducing any testimony or

exhibits at any evidentiary hearing regarding alleged damages; (iii) dismiss the Formal Complaint in its entirety with prejudice; and (iv) grant the Company such other relief as may be just and reasonable under the circumstances.

II. Background

3. Met-Ed is an electric distribution company certificated as a public utility permitted to operate within the Commonwealth in Pennsylvania.

4. On or about August 31, 2015, the Complainant filed a Formal Complaint with the Commission against Met-Ed at the above-captioned docket solely requesting that the Commission direct the Company to financially reimburse the Complainant for specific personal property losses allegedly sustained during outages experienced on several different dates between 2008 and 2015. (Compl. ¶¶ 4, 5.)

5. On or about September 11, 2015, the Formal Complaint was electronically served on Met-Ed.

6. Met-Ed is timely filing its Answer and New Matter contemporaneously with this Preliminary Objection.

III. Argument

7. The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure permit parties to file preliminary objections. The grounds for preliminary objections are limited to those set forth in 52 Pa. Code § 5.101(a) as follows:

- (1) Lack of Commission jurisdiction or improper service of the pleading initiating the proceeding.
- (2) Failure of a pleading to conform to this chapter or the inclusion of scandalous or impertinent matter.
- (3) Insufficient specificity of a pleading.
- (4) Legal insufficiency of a pleading.
- (5) Lack of capacity to sue, nonjoinder of a necessary party or misjoinder of a cause of action.

- (6) Pendency of a prior proceeding or agreement for alternative dispute resolution.
- (7) Standing of a party to participate in the proceeding.

8. The Commission's procedure regarding the disposition of preliminary objections is similar to that utilized in Pennsylvania civil practice. *Equitable Small Transportation Intervenors v. Equitable Gas Company*, Docket No. C-00935435 (Opinion and Order entered July 18, 1994).

9. The Commission's procedural regulations allow a party to object to pleadings that fail to comply with the rules of administrative practice or that include scandalous or impertinent matters. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 5.102(a)(2).

10. In her Formal Complaint, the Complainant states the following as her sole request for relief:

All we would like is for Met Ed to reimburse use for the items we had to replace. The constant replacement of household items are becoming a financial burden due to the constant power surges.

(Compl. ¶ 5.)

11. Clearly, the only relief sought through the Formal Complaint is an award of monetary damages from the Company.

12. It is well-established under Pennsylvania law that the enforcement powers of the Commission do not include the power to award money damages. *Elkin v. Bell Tel. Co. of PA.*, 420 A.2d 371 (Pa. 1980); *Feingold v. Bell of Pa.*, 383 A.2d 791 (Pa. 1978); *see Nagy v. Bell Tel. Co. of PA.*, 436 A.2d 701 (Pa. Super. 1981).

13. In *Feingold*, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court explained:

. . . the statutory array of PUC remedial and enforcement powers does not include the power to award damages to a private litigant for breach of contract by a public utility. Nor can we find an express grant of power from which the power to award such damages can be fairly implied. Thus, it can be concluded that the Legislature did not intend for the PUC to have such a power.

Feingold, 383 A.2d at 794.

14. A prayer for damages which are not legally recoverable in the cause of action is “impertinent matter” in the sense that it is irrelevant to that cause of action, and is correctly challenged through a motion to strike the requested relief as impertinent matter. *Third Avenue Realty Limited Partners v. Pennsylvania-American Water Co.*, Docket No. C-2010-2167286 (Final Order entered September 30, 2010) (citing *Hudock v. Donegal Mut. Ins. Co.*, 264 A.2d 668 (Pa. 1970)).

15. Therefore, in accordance with Pennsylvania law, this Commission does not have the power to award monetary damages, and the Complainant’s request for money damages is an impertinent matter that must be stricken.


IV. Conclusion

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Metropolitan Edison Company respectfully requests that the Commission: (1) grant its Preliminary Objections and strike the Complainant’s request for monetary damages; (2) expressly prohibit the Complainant from introducing any

testimony or exhibits at any evidentiary hearing regarding alleged damages; (3) dismiss the Formal Complaint in its entirety with prejudice; and (4) grant the Company such other relief as may be just and reasonable under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 1, 2015


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Counsel for Metropolitan Edison Company

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Docket No. C-2015-2502968


CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the Preliminary Objections of Metropolitan Edison Company to the Formal Complaint of Renee MacIntire upon the individual listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 5.61 (relating to service by a participant).

Service by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, as follows:

Renee MacIntire
1233 Totts Gap Hill Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Dated: October 1, 2015


Tori L. Giesler
FirstEnergy Service Company
2800 Pottsville Pike
P.O. Box 16001
Reading, Pennsylvania 19612-6001
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