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|  | **PENNSYLVANIA**  **PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  **Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265** |  |
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|  | Public Meeting held October 27, 2016 |
| Commissioners Present: |  |

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| Gladys M. Brown, Chairman | |
| Andrew G. Place, Vice Chairman  John F. Coleman, Jr.  Robert F. Powelson  David W. Sweet | |
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| PPL Electric Utilities Corporation’s Electronic Data Exchange Working Group’s Web Portal Working Group’s Web Portal Implementation Plan | M-2009-2092655 |

# FINAL ORDER

**BY THE COMMISSION:**

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) is the filing of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation’s (PPL) Electronic Data Exchange Working Group’s Web Portal Working Group’s Web Portal Implementation Plan (PPL Implementation Plan). Based on the recommendations provided in the Electronic Data Exchange Working Group’s (EDEWG) *Pennsylvania Web Portal Working Group Technical Implementation Standards*[[1]](#footnote-1) regarding the previously approved EDEWG standards for the development of electric distribution company[[2]](#footnote-2) (EDC) web portals, we hereby approve the PPL Implementation Plan. Furthermore, the Commission approves the recovery of these costs through the PPL Competitive Enhancement Rider.

**BACKGROUND**

In our *Smart Meter Procurement and Installation Final Order,* at Docket No. M-2009-2092655 (Order entered December 6, 2012) (hereinafter Dec. 2012 Final Order), we directed EDEWG to convene a Web Portal Working Group (WPWG) to develop standardized solutions for third-party[[3]](#footnote-3) acquisition of a customer’s historical interval usage (HIU) and billing quality interval use (BQIU) data via an EDC-provided, secure web portal.[[4]](#footnote-4) The Dec. 2012 Final Order required EDEWG to complete its development standards for the HIU solution by March 1, 2014, with the completion of its development standards for the BQIU solution by March 1, 2015. The Order only required the completion of the standards by these dates.[[5]](#footnote-5)

The EDEWG Leadership (Leadership) filed on February 4, 2014, a request that the Commission modify the scope of the proposal so that both the HIU and BQIU standards could be filed no later than March 1, 2015.[[6]](#footnote-6) Leadership asserted that many of the utilized processes, data and technology elements common to both required standards would be more efficiently synergized in generating these standards. This request was granted via a Secretarial Letter dated April 17, 2014, at the aforementioned docket.

On February 17, 2015, Leadership filed the EDEWG *Pennsylvania Web Portal Working Group Solution Framework* (Solution Framework or Framework), which outlined the standards for a secure web portal solution that would permit third parties, such as electric generation suppliers (EGSs) and conservation service providers (CSPs), to acquire both HIU and BQIU data within 48 hours of daily meter reads.

In the Framework, Leadership provided an overall request-response portal framework, which considered three basic options:

1. **Single User - Single Request (SU-SR).** A user-based platform allowing for an authorized user to manually log into the portal, request, and receive data for one individual account at a time via the portal’s user interface. The results could be rendered within the web portal interface itself or exported to the user in a predefined file format.
2. **Single User - Multiple Requests (SU-MR).** Similar to SU-SR, except that the authorized user logging into the portal may submit and receive data for more than one account number as part of a single request.
3. **System-to-System (StS)** – Initially conceived as a platform allowing an authorized user’s information technology (IT) systems to communicate directly with the web portal system of the EDC without requiring a user to manually log into the web portal itself and leverage the user interface. For instance, this could involve the use of File Transfer Protocol, aka “FTP,” or web services to transmit and satisfy requests.[[7]](#footnote-7)

After discussion, Leadership (and the WPWG) recommended to use the SU-MR structure as the minimum required standard on which the deliverables should focus. Additionally, Leadership acknowledged that there was no consensus reached on the StS, and requested Commission guidance on this functionality. [[8]](#footnote-8) Leadership determined that the SU-SR was insufficient, and did not recommend its approval.

In our *Submission of the Electronic Data Exchange Working Group’s Web Portal Working Group’s Solution Framework for Historical Interval Usage and Billing Quality Interval Use* Tentative Order*,* at Docket No. M-2009-2092655 (Order entered April 23, 2015) (hereinafter the Tentative Order), we proposed that the EDCs implement the SU-MR option within eight months of the entry date of a Final Order in the proceeding and to implement a mandatory StS functionality within 12 months of the date of the Final Order. Furthermore, the Statement of Commissioner James H. Cawley was placed into the record, asking market participants to provide responses to six specific questions posed to them. Comments were due within 30 days of the entry date of the Tentative Order.

In our *Submission of the Electronic Data Exchange Working Group’s Web Portal Working Group’s Solution Framework for Historical Interval Usage and Billing Quality Interval Use* Final Order*,* at Docket No. M-2009-2092655 (Order entered September 3, 2015) (hereinafter the Sept. 2015 Final Order), we directed those EDCs with smart meter requirements to implement, within twelve months of the entry date of the Final Order, the SU-MR option outlined in the Framework and, within fourteen months of the entry date of the Final Order, the StS functionality outlined in the Framework. We also directed EDEWG to reconvene the WPWG, with mandatory EDC participation, in order to develop (but not implement) standards for a uniform StS functionality. The WPWG was required to submit to the Commission, for its review and approval, its recommendations within six months of the entry date of the Sept. 2015 Final Order. The Commission would then provide further direction to the EDCs regarding the implementation of the StS functionality, as well as the potential recovery of costs.

Leadership filed the EDEWG *Pennsylvania Web Portal Working Group Technical Implementation Standard(s),* at Docket No. M-2009-2092655 (this was an updated version of the Solution Framework, but hereinafter the Implementation Standards) on April 7, 2016, and it was docketed by the Commission on April 12, 2016. EDEWG requested that the Commission approve the Implementation Standards, and the WPWG recommended that the StS Rolling 10 Day solution be implemented either before or during the implementation of the StS HIU solution.

In our *Submission of the Electronic Data Exchange Working Group’s Web Portal Working Group’s Solution Framework for Historical Interval Usage and Billing Quality Interval Use* Final Order*,* at Docket No. M-2009-2092655 (Order entered June 30, 2016) (hereinafter the June 2016 Final Order), we determined that third party access to the web portals would follow Section 1.1 of the Implementation Standards.[[9]](#footnote-9) Furthermore, we approved of the Implementation Standards, as submitted, and directed those EDCs with smart meter requirements to implement the Single User – Multiple Requests, System-to-System Rolling 10 Day and System-to-System Historical Interval Usage solutions no later than November 3, 2016.[[10]](#footnote-10) We also ordered that those EDCs with smart meter requirements submit implementation plans containing cost estimates and a requested recovery mechanism within 30 days from the date of the June 2016 Final Order.[[11]](#footnote-11)

**DISCUSSION**

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

On August 10, 2016, PPL filed its Electronic Data Exchange Working Group’s Web Portal Working Group’s Web Portal Implementation Plan (PPL Implementation Plan). The PPL Implementation Plan outlines the changes PPL will undertake to ensure it meets the functionality and other requirements of the June 2016 Final Order. No party filed comments or objections to PPL’s plan and the matter is now ripe for disposition.

PPL claims it currently offers the SU-MR functionality to all licensed EGSs and CSPs through its existing Supplier Portal. PPL contends that full compliance with the Implementation Standards will require it to modify its Supplier Portal to utilize the data format in the Framework, however, the necessary modifications will be implemented on or before November 3, 2016. Furthermore, PPL indicates that these changes will provide new functionalities such as a new “Superscreen” view of customer demographic data, increased 24 months of summary usage data as billed, increased 24 months of interval usage data complete with quantity qualifiers indicating if the meter reads were actual or estimated, and a comprehensive download capability. PPL Implementation Plan at 5 and 6.

In its Implementation Plan, PPL states that its existing Supplier Portal does not currently provide the functionality required by the StS solutions. PPL will be required to modify its existing Supplier Portal to provide the standard data formats outlined in the Implementation Standard for both the comprehensive data format and the Rolling 10 Day format. This data will be provided within 48 hours of daily meter reads, and that the functionality will be implemented by November 3, 2016. Furthermore, PPL indicates that these changes will provide additional functionalities including an automated method to supplement the SU-MR method to streamline the downloading of the data elements in the SU-MR Superscreen, a more robust method to obtain data in a timely manner, the ability to automate a secure transport facility, and an automated comprehensive download capability. PPL Implementation Planat 6 and 7*.*

PPL indicates in its Implementation Plan that it is currently making changes in its Meter Data Management System, and that this system is the data source for the HIU and BQIU data that will be provided through the secure web portal. PPL further indicates that a remote possibility exists that the Meter Data Management System replacement project could impact PPL’s ability to provide all of the data elements as outlined in the Implementation Standards for November 3, 2016. PPL claims that an unforeseen change in the Meter Data Management System project timeline could cause data element unavailability. PPL Implementation Plan at 7.

PPL states that the modifications to its existing Supplier Portal supporting the SU-MR functionality will primarily consist of expanding the data available to EGSs with a more comprehensive view and expanded data capabilities. PPL also states that the modification to its existing Supplier Portal supporting the StS functionality will include a new system-to-system automated transport and delivery mechanism to expand the data access functionality and increase the timeliness of retrieval of the data. PPL Implementation Plan at 8.

The Commission has reviewed the PPL Implementation Plan and determined that it fulfills the requirements set forth in the June 2016 Final Order. Additionally, the PPL Implementation Plan conforms to the framework set forth in the Implementation Standard approved in the June 2016 Final Order. We therefore approve the PPL Implementation Plan. However, if PPL determines it will have a delay due to the Meter Data Management System replacement project, it shall notify the Commission’s Office of Competitive Market Oversight (OCMO) and request guidance as to the appropriate course of action.

**COST RECOVERY**

As required by the June 2016 Final Order, PPL included in its Implementation Plan an estimate of the costs for implementation of the web portal, which is anticipated to be approximately $150,000. PPL requests that it be authorized to recover these costs through its Competitive Enhance Rider. PPL Implementation Plan at 7 and 8. The Commission approves PPL’s request to recover these costs through its Competitive Enhancement Rider.

**CONCLUSION**

Upon full consideration of all matters of record, we hereby approve the PPL Implementation Plan. Furthermore, the Commission approves the recovery of these costs through the PPL Competitive Enhancement Rider. Additionally, we order PPL to notify OCMO immediately if it intends to delay implementation of any functionality due to the Meter Data Management System replacement project.

**THEREFORE,**

**IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That PPL Electric Utilities Corporation’s Electronic *Data Exchange Working Group’s Web Portal Working Group’s Web Portal Implementation Plan* is hereby approved.

2. That PPL Electric Utilities Corporation notify the Office of Competitive Market Oversight immediately if it intends to delay implementation of any functionality due to its Meter Data Management System replacement project.

3. That PPL Electric Utilities Corporation may recover the costs for the implementation of its Electronic Data Exchange Working Group’s Web Portal Working Group’s Web Portal through its Competitive Enhancement Rider.

4. That this Final Order shall be served on all Electric Distribution Companies, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate and all parties at Docket No. M-2009-2092655.

5. That a copy of this Final Order shall be posted on the Commission’s website at the Electronic Data Exchange Working Group’s web page - <http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/electricity/edewg_files_for_downloading.aspx>.

6. That the Commission’s Office of Competitive Market Oversight shall provide an electronic copy of this Final Order to the Committee Handling Activities for Retail Growth in Electricity (CHARGE).

**** **BY THE COMMISSION,**

Rosemary Chiavetta

Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: October 27, 2016

ORDER ENTERED: October 27, 2016

1. *See Pennsylvania Web Portal Working Group Technical Implementation Standards*, submitted by EDEWG, at Docket No. M-2009-2092655, received April 12, 2016 (hereinafter Implementation Standards). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. These proposals apply only to those EDCs with smart meter technology requirements as outlined at 66 Pa. C.S. § 2807(f). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Third parties could include electric generation suppliers and customer-authorized third party entities. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *See* Dec. 2012 Final Order at 13-14. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Id.* at 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *See* Letter from EDEWG, submitted February 4, 2014, at Docket No. M-2009-2092655. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *See* Solution Framework at 2-3. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Id.* at cover letter. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *See Implementation Standards* at 5-6 (StS Rolling 10 Day and SU-MR) and at 6-7 (StS HIU). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *June 2016 Final Order* at 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. *Id.* at 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)