

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Danielle Johnson

v.

PECO Energy Company

Docket No. Z-01107822

PREHEARING ORDER

On October 21, 2002, I was assigned to preside over this case. An initial telephonic hearing in this case is scheduled for December 2, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. Accordingly, the parties are directed to comply with the following requirements:

1. If you intend to present any documents or exhibits for my consideration, you must send one copy to the other party and three copies to me one week before the hearing.

2. If you or any proposed witness will be at a telephone number that is different than the number on the hearing notice, you must notify me of that telephone number at least one week before the hearing.

3. If the Commission's Bureau of Consumer Services (BCS) has directed the customer to make payments and those payments have not been made, the customer must be prepared to explain at the hearing why those payments have not been made. **FAILURE TO MAKE REGULAR PAYMENTS AS DIRECTED BY THE BCS MAY RESULT IN AN ORDER REQUIRING A LUMP SUM PAYMENT EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF THE PAYMENTS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE.** The utility must submit a copy of the latest BCS decision as a hearing exhibit.

4. At the hearing, the customer must be prepared to testify about, or otherwise document, the total net monthly income of the household. A household includes all individuals regularly residing there and receiving the benefit of the utility service. The total net monthly income of the household includes, but is not limited to, the following payments received by every person residing in the customer's home: (a) the after taxes take-home-pay from salaries, wages, tips or other compensation; (b) pension, retirement or social security benefits; (c)

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Supplemental Security Income (SSI); (d) unemployment compensation benefits; (e) workers' compensation benefits; (f) alimony; (g) support; (h) public assistance; and (i) any other source(s) of income.

5. If the customer or any member of the customer's household is receiving food stamps and/or medical assistance, the customer must be prepared to testify about or document the amount of food stamps or the nature of the medical assistance received.

6. At the hearing, the customer must be prepared to testify about or document the total monthly expenses of the household, which shall include, but are not limited to, the following items: (a) rent or mortgage payments; (b) utility bills (including electric, gas, telephone, water, sewer, cable television, etc.); (c) food, in addition to any food stamp benefits; (d) clothing; (e) automobile (loan payments, gasoline, maintenance, etc.); (f) transportation (bus, taxicabs, jitneys, etc.); (g) insurance premiums (homeowners' or renters' insurance, automobile insurance, life insurance, medical insurance, etc.); (h) medical bills, (doctors, dentists, hospitals, prescriptions, etc.); (i) credit card and charge account payments; (j) loan payments; and (k) miscellaneous expenses. When testifying to these expenses, the customer should be prepared to give balances due or missed payments for each item.

7. TO ASSIST THE CUSTOMER PROVIDE THE INCOME AND EXPENSE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THIS ORDER, THREE (3) COPIES OF A BUDGET INFORMATION SHEET ARE ENCLOSED WITH THIS ORDER. THE CUSTOMER MUST FILL OUT THIS BUDGET SHEET, RETURN ONE COPY TO ME AND SEND ONE COPY TO COUNSEL FOR THE UTILITY AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE HEARING. YOU MAY KEEP ONE COPY OF THE BUDGET SHEET AND THE ORDER FOR YOUR USE.

8. The utility must prepare and submit the following documents at least one week before the hearing: (a) an account statement, showing the history of the account for a minimum of 24 months or the entire history of the account, whichever is less; (b) a service usage comparison report for the same period as the account statement; (c) a copy of the most recent BCS decision, if any; and (d) a brief summary of any payment arrangement(s) made between the utility and the customer other than determinations of the BCS or the Commission. The utility shall be prepared to discuss at the hearing the options available for the complainant ratepayer.

Those options may include weatherization assistance, a customer assistance plan, grants or loans, or suggestions for reducing consumption.

9. A request for a change of the scheduled hearing date must be submitted in writing no later than five (5) days prior to the hearing. 52 Pa. Code §1.15(b). Requests for changes of hearings must be sent to me and to all parties of record. The correct address is: Administrative Law Judge Michael C. Schnierle, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, P.O. Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265. Requests for a change of an initial hearing are granted only in rare situations where sufficient cause exists.

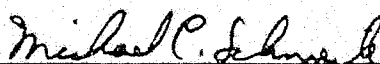
10. **YOU MAY LOSE THIS CASE, IF YOU DO NOT TAKE PART IN THIS HEARING AND PRESENT EVIDENCE ON THE ISSUES RAISED.**

11. ALTHOUGH THIS HEARING IS BEING CONDUCTED TELEPHONICALLY FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PARTIES, IT IS STILL A FORMAL HEARING AND WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSION'S RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE.

12. Commission policy is to encourage settlements. 52 Pa. Code §5.231(a). Therefore, you are urged to discuss informally between yourselves the possible settlement of this case at least one week before the hearing. If you are unable to settle this case, you may still resolve as many questions or issues as possible during your informal discussion.

For your convenience, I am enclosing a copy of the Commission's service list as of this date.

Date: Oct. 23, 2002


MICHAEL C. SCHNIERLE
Administrative Law Judge