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File #: 167945

January 29, 2018

VIA E-MAIL & REGULAR MAIL

Honorable Elizabeth Barnes
Administrative Law Judge
PA Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor West
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: Donna Bervinchak v. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation
Docket No. C-2016-2572824

Your Honor:

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (“PPL Electric” or the “Company”) hereby submits this letter and respectfully requests that all expert witnesses submit written direct testimony in advance of the evidentiary hearing scheduled for March 8, 2018. Although PPL Electric does not know if Ms. Bervinchak will present any expert witnesses at this time, the Company intends to call two expert witnesses as a part of its direct case: (1) Dr. Christopher C. Davis, Ph.D.; and (2) Dr. Mark A. Israel, M.D. The expert witnesses’ testimony will cover complex scientific and medical issues.

Specifically, Dr. Davis is expected to testify about the nature and physical properties of radio frequency (“RF”) fields, whether there is an established biophysical or biological mechanism for RF fields from advanced metering infrastructure (“AMI”) and/or automatic meter reading (“AMR”) systems to cause adverse effects in humans, methods for determining a person's exposure to RF fields, and how the RF fields from PPL Electric’s AMI system compare to the Federal Communications Commission’s RF exposure standards and to RF field exposures from other sources in everyday life.

Dr. Israel is expected to testify about RF fields and health, and whether there are scientific studies that provide a reliable medical or scientific basis for concluding that RF fields from PPL Electric’s AMI system will cause or contribute to the adverse health effects, if any, alleged by Ms. Bervinchak.

Honorable Elizabeth Barnes
January 29, 2018
Page 2

PPL Electric submits that the use of written testimony will help the hearing proceed in an orderly and expeditious fashion. Such expert testimony would be easier to understand if presented in written form and could be moved into the record much quicker. In fact, the “[u]se of written testimony in Commission proceedings is encouraged, especially in connection with the testimony of expert witnesses.” 52 Pa. Code § 5.412(a). Moreover, PPL Electric believes that using written testimony for expert witnesses will enable Ms. Bervinchak to better prepare for the hearing.

For these reasons, PPL Electric respectfully requests that all expert witnesses in this proceeding be required to submit written direct testimony on or before February 15, 2018, which is the current due date for parties to exchange exhibits, reports, and statements.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Devin Ryan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Devin Ryan

DTR/jl

cc: Rosemary Chiavetta
Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

VIA E-MAIL & FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Date: January 29, 2018



Devin T. Ryan