

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**Joint Petition on behalf of  
Duquesne Light Company, the  
Coalition for Affordable Utility  
Services and Energy Efficiency in  
PA, and the Office of Consumer  
Advocate**

**Public Meeting: February 8, 2018  
BCS-2534323  
Docket No. M-2016-2534323**

**JOINT STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN ANDREW G. PLACE AND  
COMMISSIONER DAVID W. SWEET**

Before the Commission for consideration is the draft order regarding, in part, the Joint Petition of Duquesne Light Company (Duquesne or Company), the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in PA (CAUSE-PA), and the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) seeking to further amend Duquesne's 2017-2019 Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan (USECP). The petition requests a modification to Duquesne's existing Customer Assistance Program (CAP) and requests a waiver of Commission regulations to allow its Amended Proposed Plan to be effective through 2022. The order before us grants the petition in part, allowing for certain consensus changes to Duquesne's current Customer Assistance Program and denies it in part, requiring Duquesne to file a 2020-2022 Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan by or before February 28, 2019.

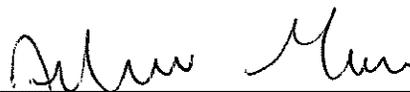
In March 2017, Duquesne came before the Commission with a revised version of its Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan for the period 2017-2019. At that juncture, we introduced a motion which ordered that Duquesne, among other items, begin a collaborative to address design issues in its Customer Assistance Program. The Joint Petition before us today is a result of that collaborative effort.

Before addressing the issues at hand, we want to applaud Duquesne, CAUSE-PA and OCA for this successful collaboration. These are complex topics, with real impacts for Pennsylvania households, and we are impressed with the petition before us today and the consensus upon which this petition and its contents stand. The interim approach of increasing the ceiling for CAP credits, thereby reducing consumer bills is a good step forward to achieving affordability for Pennsylvania's low-income and fixed-income residents.

However, Duquesne also proposes a second-phase of CAP changes in which they would transition from a Percent of Bill Program to a Percent of Income Program in 2020 with an associated waiver of Commission regulations affording a

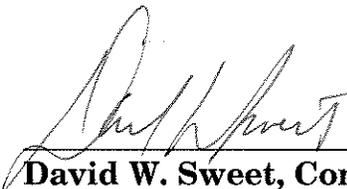
three-year extension of their current USECP until 2022. It is this portion of the petition that the Commission denies. Nevertheless, this partial denial should not be viewed as a reflection on the merits of the petition and collaboration as a whole. With the open dockets regarding Universal Service and Energy Affordability, the Commission is exploring new ideas that might result in the formulation of certain requirements regarding Pennsylvania's universal service programs, which is why we believe it is premature for Duquesne to make extensive policy changes within their plan at this time. We thank Duquesne for their continued participation in these comprehensive efforts and look forward to Duquesne continuing this collaboration as they prepare for their upcoming Universal Service filings.

**Date: February 8, 2018**



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**Andrew G. Place, Vice Chairman**



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**David W. Sweet, Commissioner**