

Lauren M. Lepkoski, Esq.
(610) 921-6203
(330) 315-9263 (Fax)

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OCT 23 2018

October 4, 2018

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

VIA E-FILING

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

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OCT 13 2018

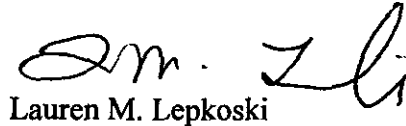
PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Re: John Siegle v. Metropolitan Edison Company
Docket No. C-2018-3004647

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. *Also the preliminary OBJECTIONS OF THE COMPLAINANT JOHN SIEGLE ARE SHOWN HEREIN.*
Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


Lauren M. Lepkoski

krak
Enclosures

c: As per Certificate of Service

- C TO JOHN SIEGLE
- C TO METROPOLITAN EDISON CO.
- C TO P.P.U.C.

* ORIGINAL SIGNATURE IS ENCLOSED ON BACKSIDE OF PAGE 9.

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OCT 23 2018

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

JOHN SIEGLE

:

v.

:

Docket No. C-2018-3004647

:

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

:

**PRELIMINARY OBJECTION TO THE FORMAL COMPLAINT OF
JOHN SIEGLE**

TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

AND NOW, Metropolitan Edison Company ("Met-Ed" or the "Company"), by and through its counsel, Lauren M. Lepkoski and 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 his recently filed Formal Complaint, John Siegle ("Complainant") who resides at 185 West Madison Street, Mohnton, Pennsylvania 19540 ("Service Location"), alleges that he does not want a smart meter installed at the Service Location. (Formal Complaint ¶¶ 4, 5.) The Complainant states as requested relief:

Have the utility co. let the resident read their own meter at intervals normally used in billing their customers. They also have the option of sending someone to read the meter at any given time.

(Formal Complaint ¶ 5.)

2. The Company is in the process of deploying smart meters in its service territory in accordance with Act 129 of 2008 ("Act 129").¹

¹ 66 Pa.C.S. § 2806.1 *et seq.* Among other things, Act 129 specifically directed that electric distribution companies with at least 100,000 customers file a smart meter technology procurement and installation plan with the Commission for approval. 66 Pa.C.S. § 2807(f)(1) and (2).

3. On July 10, 2018, the Company sent correspondence to the Complainant regarding the installation of a smart meter at the Service Location. On August 15, 2018, the Company received notification from Wellington Energy that the Complainant refused installation of the smart meter. That same day, the Company attempted to contact the Complainant to discuss the installation of the smart meter and left a message seeking a return call. No return call was received. On August 16, 2018, the Company sent correspondence to the Complainant in an attempt to schedule installation of a smart meter at the Service Location. On August 28, 2018, a pre-disconnection warning letter was issued to the Complainant pursuant to 66 Pa.C.S. § 1406, 52 Pa. Code § 56.81, and Rules 9 and 20 of the Company's Commission-approved tariff.² On September 7, 2018, a service termination notice was issued to the Complainant pursuant to 66 Pa.C.S. § 1406, 52 Pa. Code § 56.81, and Rules 9 and 20 of the Company's Commission-approved tariff.³ That same day, the Company spoke with the Complainant regarding the service termination notice. The Complainant stated that he was refusing installation. The Company representative attempted to address the Complainant's concerns regarding the installation of a smart meter at the Service Location. The Complainant reiterated his refusal of installation and was notified that his service may be terminated if installation of the smart meter at the Service Location is not completed. On September 11, 2018, the Complainant filed the Formal Complaint with the Commission. On September 14, 2018, the Company was electronically served with the Formal Complaint and termination efforts ceased.

4. As explained in greater detail below, even if all of the facts in the Formal Complaint are accepted as true, they do not constitute a violation of any law which the Commission has

² 66 Pa.C.S. § 1406(a)(4); 52 Pa. Code § 56.81(3); *Metropolitan Edison Company Retail Electric Service Tariff*, Electric Pa. PUC No. 52, pp. 40, 55, issued May 1, 2015, effective May 3, 2015.

³ *Id.*

the CPUC-CA Public Utility Comm. has ordered all of California utilities to offer opt. out for smart meters as of Sept. 14, 2011. Many other states have followed. PA. has not conformed.

jurisdiction to administer, or of any regulation or order of the Commission, such that relief can be granted.⁴

Does NOT: VIOLATE CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT SET FORTH BY THE UTILITY CO ITSELF (W. NO PROVISION OF SMART METER ADDRESSED) + SET FORTH

5. As a result, the Company requests that this Preliminary Objection be granted and that the Commission: (1) strike the Complainant's request for an exemption from the installation of a smart meter; (2) dismiss the Formal Complaint in its entirety with prejudice; and (3) grant the Company such other relief as may be just and reasonable under the circumstances.

* Not all utilities use or mandate the use of smart meters.
II. Background /

6. Met-Ed is an electric distribution company that is certificated as a public utility in Pennsylvania.

7. On July 10, 2018, the Company sent correspondence to the Complainant regarding the installation of a smart meter at the Service Location. On August 15, 2018, the Company received notification from Wellington Energy that the Complainant refused installation of the smart meter. That same day, the Company attempted to contact the Complainant to discuss the installation of the smart meter and left a message seeking a return call. No return call was received. On August 16, 2018, the Company sent correspondence to the Complainant in an attempt to schedule installation of a smart meter at the Service Location. On August 28, 2018, a pre-disconnection warning letter was issued to the Complainant pursuant to 66 Pa.C.S. § 1406, 52 Pa. Code § 56.81, and Rules 9 and 20 of the Company's Commission-approved tariff.⁵ On September 7, 2018, a service termination notice was issued to the Complainant pursuant to 66 Pa.C.S. § 1406, 52 Pa. Code § 56.81, and Rules 9 and 20 of the Company's Commission-approved tariff.⁶ That same day, the Company spoke with the Complainant regarding the service termination notice. The

⁴ See 66 Pa.C.S. § 701.

⁵ 66 Pa.C.S. § 1406(a)(4); 52 Pa. Code § 56.81(3); Metropolitan Edison Company Retail Electric Service Tariff, Electric Pa. PUC No. 52, pp. 40, 55, issued May 1, 2015, effective May 3, 2015.

⁶ *Id.*

Complainant stated that he was refusing installation. The Company representative attempted to address the Complainant's concerns regarding the installation of a smart meter at the Service Location. The Complainant reiterated his refusal of installation and was notified that his service may be terminated if installation of the smart meter at the Service Location is not completed.

8. On September 11, 2018, the Complainant filed a Formal Complaint with the Commission against Met-Ed at the above-captioned docket. The Company was electronically served with the Formal Complaint on September 14, 2018 and termination efforts ceased.

9. Met-Ed is timely filing its Answer and New Matter contemporaneously with this Preliminary Objection, which Answer and New Matter is incorporated into this Preliminary Objection as if fully set forth herein.

III. Argument

- ∴ NO HARM - NO FOUL - W. FULL COOPERATION OF METER READING AT CONSUMERS INCONVENIENCE OR MET-ED CO. CONVENIENCE.

10. 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.

11. The Commission's procedure regarding the disposition of preliminary objections is similar to that utilized in Pennsylvania civil practice.⁷

FURTHER ARGUMENTS - SEE BACKSIDE PLEASE!

⁷ *Equitable Small Transportation Intervenors v. Equitable Gas Company*, Docket No. C-00935435 (Opinion and Order entered August 158, 1994).

THE UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION HAS CLEAR GUIDELINES REGARDING RADIO FREQUENCY EMISSION FROM ALL ELECTRO MAGNETIC AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY DEVICES. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VALIDATED CRITERIA ON ELECTROMAGNETIC APPARATUS MUST FALL BETWEEN CERTAIN GHz FOR A DESIGNATED DISTANCE + AREA. ALSO PULSES, AND SPIKES. NONE OF THIS CRITERIA HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE CONSUMER BY THE UTILITY CO. TO ASSURE OR GUARANTEE ANY SAFETY MEASURE INCLUDING SHIELDING. MORE THE UTILITY CO ONLY MAKES DENIAL OF EMISSIONS AND THERE LEVELS TO THEIR CONSUMERS. STATING THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THESE FACTS. DENIAL NOR IGNORANCE, CAN BE USED AS A LEGAL DEFENSE. INSTEAD IT SHOWS DISREGARD FOR THE CONSUMERS.

12. A preliminary objection in civil practice seeking dismissal of a pleading will be granted only where relief is clearly warranted and free from doubt.⁸ The Commission has adopted this standard.⁹

13. In accordance with Section 701 of the Code¹⁰ a person may file a complaint which sets forth “any act or thing done or omitted to be done by any public utility in violation, or claimed violation, of any law which the commission has jurisdiction to administer, or of any regulation or order of the commission.” As explained below, the Company has not violated the Public Utility Code or the orders or regulations of the Commission.¹¹ In fact, the Company’s actions have been in compliance with Act 129 and the June 5 Order.

14. The moving party may not rely on its own factual assertions but must accept for the purposes of disposition of the preliminary objection, all well-pleaded, material facts of the other party, as well as every inference fairly deducible from those facts.¹² Therefore, in ruling on a preliminary objection, the Commission must assume, for decisional purposes only, that the factual allegations of the Formal Complaint are true.¹³

15. Met-Ed’s smart meter deployment plan was approved by the Commission at Docket No. M-2013-2341990 by Order entered June 5, 2014. In accordance with the June 5 Order, the Company filed its final Smart Meter Deployment Plan (“SMP”) on June 16, 2014. The SMP was approved by the Commission on June 20, 2014. The Complainant challenges no aspect of the Company’s provision of electric service other than the installation of a smart meter at the Service Location, as required by Act 129 and the Company’s SMP.

⁸ *Interstate Traveler Services, Inc. v. Pa. Dept. of Environmental Resources*, 406 A.2d 1020 (Pa. 1979); *Rivera v. Philadelphia Theological Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Inc.*, 595 A.2d 172 (Pa. Super. 1991).

⁹ *Montague v. Philadelphia Electric Company*, 66 Pa. PUC 24 (1988).

¹⁰ 66 Pa.C.S. § 701.--*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *County of Allegheny v. Commw. of Pa.*, 490 A.2d 402 (Pa. 1985).

¹³ *Id.*

16. Commission precedent is uniform that it cannot grant exceptions to the statutory directive that smart meters be installed by allowing customers to opt out.¹⁴

17. Assuming the facts pleaded in the Formal Complaint are true, as the Commission must for the purposes of ruling on a preliminary objection, the Complainant has failed to allege that Met-Ed has committed or omitted an act in violation of a Commission statute, regulation, order, or Met-Ed's tariff, a finding of which must be made in order to sustain a formal complaint.¹⁵

18. Because Act 129 and the Commission's orders not only authorize but require the Company to develop and implement a smart meter procurement and installation plan, and do not allow a customer to opt out of having a smart meter installed, this Formal Complaint must be dismissed. As a matter of law, the Company is required to install a smart meter at the Service Location. As such, the Commission cannot find the Company to be in violation for having attempted to follow the law as it has done here.

19. Therefore, the Formal Complaint is legally insufficient because it fails to state a claim upon which the Commission can grant relief.¹⁶ *STATES VIOLATION OF CONST. (BEING 14th AMENDMENT) + ACTS*

20. The Commission may dismiss a complaint without hearing if a hearing is not necessary in the public interest.¹⁷ *BASIC*

Act 129 THE LAW VIOLATES THE RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS OF THE COMM. OF PENN. OF 2008 W/ SPECIFICS STATED IN THE 14TH AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE U.S.A. THEREFORE IT IS NOT ENFORCED AND IS UP FOR REVIEW + REPEAL IN MANY LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE U.S. AND IN EUROPE YOU CAN OPT OUT OF SMART METER DUE TO HEALTH RISKS + CONCERNS

¹⁴ *Negley v. Metropolitan Edison Company*, Docket No. C-2010-2205305 (Initial Decision dated January 3, 2011 became final without Commission action closed March 3, 2011); *Lutherschmidt v. Metropolitan Edison Company*, Docket No. C-2010-2200353 (Final Order entered March 25, 2011). The Commission has continued to uphold installation of smart meters by dismissing complaints opposing installation of smart meters on the basis of legal insufficiency. *Corbett v. Pennsylvania Power Company*, Docket No. C-2011-2219898 (Final Order entered May 27, 2011); *Jones v. Metropolitan Edison Company*, Docket No. C-2011-2224380 (Final Order entered June 28, 2011); *Griffin v. Metropolitan Edison Company*, Docket No. C-2012-2300172 (Final Order entered November 27, 2012); *Brake v. Met-Ed Company*, Docket No. C-2013-2367308 (Final Order entered November 14, 2013); *Drake v. Metropolitan Edison Company*, Docket No. C-2014-2413771 (Final Order entered June 12, 2014); *Efaw v. Met-Ed Company*, Docket No. C-2014-2413744 (Final Order entered June 12, 2014). See also, the Initial Decision of ALJ Susan D. Colwell in *Dennis McElwain v. Pennsylvania Power Company*, Docket No. C-2014-2451478, issued December 3, 2015.

¹⁵ See 66 Pa.C.S. § 701; *County of Allegheny, supra.* (Compl. ¶ 4.)

¹⁶ See 52 Pa. Code § 5.101(a)(4).

¹⁷ 66 Pa.C.S. § 703(b); 52 Pa. Code § 5.21 (d).

SMART METERS ARE NOT A LEGAL REQUIREMENT + NOT COMPULSORY. DUE TO EQUIM PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW!

21. Recently, the Commission set for hearing two cases in which the complainant was opposed to the installation of a smart meter at their premises.¹⁸ These cases represent a departure from past Commission practice of dismissing such complaints on Preliminary Objections. The Commission stated that where a complainant has presented specific factual averments regarding the health or other effects that they have experienced after a smart meter was installed at their home, the Commission has overruled Preliminary Objections and allowed a case to proceed. Specifically, in *Kreider*, the complainant alleged specific deleterious health effects after installation of a smart meter affecting her specific medical condition. Further, in *Van Schoyck*, the complainants alleged potential health risks due to constant ringing noise in their home and their inability to sleep since the time the smart meter was installed.¹⁹ In contrast, in the instant case, the Complainant has made no specific factual averments regarding any health effects experienced after a smart meter has been installed. Specifically, the Complainant states that he does not want a smart meter installed at the Service Location as he does not wish to be “exposed to the R.F. levels” and believes the smart meter to be an invasion of his privacy.²⁰ Further, the Complainant has stated that other states and municipalities have had similar acts repealed due to “constitution rights of citizens.”²¹ The Commission has not recognized a customer’s lack of consent to install a smart meter as sufficient to overcome preliminary objections.²² Therefore, the Company respectfully submits that the matters plead in the subject Formal Complaint do not meet the standards set in the

¹⁸ *Susan Kreider v. PECO Energy Company*, Docket No. C-2015-2469655 (Order on Reconsideration entered January 28, 2016); *Stephen and Diane Van Schoyck v. PECO Energy Company*, Docket No. C-2015-2478239 (Opinion and Order entered February 25, 2016).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Formal Complaint ¶ 4.

²¹ *Id.*

²² *Richard and Marie Fugo in care of Fugo Eye Institute v. PECO Energy Company*, Docket Nos. C-2015-2519763 and C-2015-2519770 (Order entered April 6, 2016).

Kreider and *Van Schoyck* cases such that this matter can survive dismissal on preliminary objections.

22. In *Charles F. Jackson v. Pennsylvania Electric Company*, Docket No. C-2017-2600495 (Order Entered August 31, 2017), the Commission approved the Initial Decision of ALJ David A. Salapa, dated June 26, 2017, which granted the preliminary objections of Pennsylvania Electric Company and dismissed the formal complaint of Mr. Jackson (who was disputing the installation of a smart meter), finding that the formal complaint was legally insufficient, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.101(a)(4), in that the complaint failed to allege that the utility violated the Public Utility Code, Commission regulations or orders or the utility's tariff provisions. The respondent was found to be authorized to install smart meters and impose a charge on its customers to develop and implement a smart meter procurement and installation plan that will lead to the installation of smart meters throughout its service territory. ALJ Salapa further found that the respondent was authorized to terminate the Mr. Jackson's service if he refused to provide the respondent with access to its meter and equipment to install the smart meter.

This Commission decision was entered after *Kreider*. The Formal Complaint is similar to the alleged averments in the formal complaint at Docket No. C-2017-2600495, in that the Complainant has only alleged that he does not want a smart meter installed at the Service Location. The Complainant has not set forth in his complaint that any act done by the Company that violates a Commission regulation, statute or order.

23. Therefore, the Company respectfully submits that the matters plead in the Formal Complaint do not meet the standards set in the *Kreider* and *Van Schoyck* cases such that this matter can survive dismissal on preliminary objections.

24. Further, the Commission has upheld decisions granting preliminary objections and dismissing complaints for legal insufficiency opposing smart meter installation. In *Negley*, ALJ Susan D. Colwell dismissed a complaint opposing installation of smart meters for legal insufficiency. ALJ Colwell concluded that Act 129 of 2008 authorized the installation of smart meters by EDCs. ALJ Colwell held that the Commission's orders approving EDCs smart meter plans did not exempt any customers from the smart meter plans. By Commission final order entered March 3, 2011, ALJ Colwell's Initial Decision became final without further Commission action.

25. Rule 9 of the Company's Commission-approved tariff²³ allows the Company to have access to its customers' premises for any and all purposes relating to the supply of electric energy which includes the exchange of meters. The Complainant's refusal to allow the Company access to its own meter is a violation of Rules 9 and 20 of the Company's Commission-approved tariff²⁴ and is grounds for termination of service in accordance with 66 Pa.C.S. § 1406(a)(4) and 52 Pa. Code § 56.81(3). The Commission has also upheld decisions finding that a utility has the ability to terminate the service of a customer who refuses installation of a smart meter.²⁵

26. Because Act 129 and the Commission's orders authorize the Company to develop and implement a smart meter procurement and installation plan, the Complainant has not set forth in his complaint any act done by the Company that violates a Commission regulation, statute or order.

²³ *Metropolitan Edison Company Retail Electric Service Tariff*, Electric Pa. PUC No. 52, pp. 40, issued May 1, 2015, effective August 15, 2015.

²⁴ *Metropolitan Edison Company Retail Electric Service Tariff*, Electric Pa. PUC No. 52, pp. 40, 55, issued May 1, 2015, effective August 15, 2015.

²⁵ *Art Larson v. PECO Energy Company*; Docket No. C-2014-2451754 (Opinion and Order entered June 11, 2015). See also, *Catherine J. Frompovitch v. PECO Energy Company*; Docket No. C-2015-2474602 (Opinion and Order entered May 3, 2018).

THE UTILITY CO HAS NOT SHOWN ANY FACTS, FIGURES, ^{OR} TABLES REGARDING
THE SMART METER EMISSIONS. NOR PROOF THAT THIS DEVICE IS
NOT IN ANY WAY HARMFUL TO HUMANS OR THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND
THEREFORE REQUEST RELIEF AND EXEMPTION FOR THE SMART METER
TO BE INSTALLED OR LOCATED ON OUR PLACE OF RESIDENCE BEING
THAT OF JOHN SIEGLE - 185 W. MADISON ST. MOHNTON, PR. 19540

AND IS JUST AND REASONABLE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES,
BEING CIVIL RIGHTS AND ^{AND} CIVIL LIBERTIES, + FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF ITS PEOPLE

REF. 14TH AMMENDMENT OF
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DATED JULY 9, 1868

Respectfully Submitted

John Siegle

John Siegle John Siegle

A CONCERNED CONSUMER
+ CITIZEN.

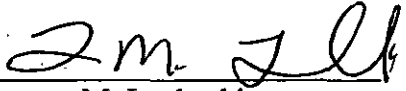
NO OPTION, OF SHIELDING FROM SMART METER RF EMISSIONS HAS EVEN BEEN OFFERED. SHOWING EVEN MORE DISREGARD.

← IV. Conclusion
SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR COMPLAINANTS REPLY:

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 an exemption from the installation of a smart meter; (2) dismiss the Formal Complaint in its entirety with prejudice; and (3) grant the Company such other relief as may be just and reasonable under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 4, 2018


Lauren M. Lepkoski
Attorney No. 94800
Tori L. Giesler
Attorney No. 207742
FirstEnergy Service Company
2800 Pottsville Pike
P.O. Box 16001
Reading, Pennsylvania 19612-6001
(610) 921-6203
(610) 921-6658
llepkoski@firstenergycorp.com
tgiesler@firstenergycorp.com

Counsel for Metropolitan Edison Company

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

JOHN SIEGLE

v.

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

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Docket No. C-2018-3004647

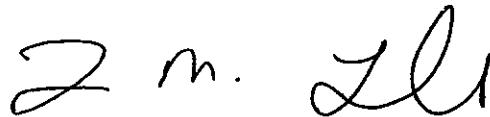
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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 John Siegle upon the individuals listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

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

John Siegle
185 West Madison Street
Mohnton, PA 19540

Dated: October 4, 2018



Lauren M. Lepkoski
Tori L. Giesler
FirstEnergy Service Company
2800 Pottsville Pike
P.O. Box 16001
Reading, Pennsylvania 19612-6001
(610) 921-6203
(610) 921-6658
llepkoski@firstenergycorp.com
tgiesler@firstenergycorp.com

I hereby certify that I have complied by replying here and now, to the served true copy of the preliminary objections to Metropolitan Edison Company in requirements of Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant)

2800 Pottsville Pike, P.O. Box 16001

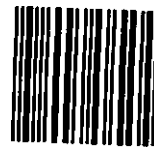
Service by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, as follows - Lauren M. Lepkoski, Tori Giesler - First Energy Service Co. Reading, Penn. 19612-6001

CERTIFIED MAIL

J. Siegle
185W MADISON
19540



1000



17120

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FCM LETTER
MOHNTON, PA
19540
OCT 22, 18
AMOUNT

\$4.58

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COMM. OF PENN
P.P.U.C. SECRETARY
400 NORTH ST. 2ND FLR.
HARR. PA. 17120

File Ref # C-2018-3004647

7018 0040 0000 5601 3586

