

Tori L. Giesler, Esq.
(610) 921-6658
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April 24, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: Michele Armstrong v. Metropolitan Edison Company
Docket No. C-2018-3004052

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed please find the Motion to Dismiss of Metropolitan Edison Company with regard to the above-captioned matter. This document has been served on the Complainant as shown in the Certificate of Service.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,



Tori L. Giesler

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Enclosures

c: As Per Certificate of Service

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

MICHELE ARMSTRONG

V.

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

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Docket No. C-2018-3004052

NOTICE TO PLEAD

TO: Michele Armstrong

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.371(b), you are hereby notified that, if you do not file a written response denying or correcting the enclosed Motion to Dismiss of Metropolitan Edison Company within **five (5) days** from the service of the Notice, the facts set forth by Metropolitan Edison Company in the Motion may be deemed to be true, thereby requiring no other proof. All pleadings, such as a Reply to Motion, must be filed with the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, with a copy service to counsel for Metropolitan Edison Company, and where applicable, the Administrative Law Judge presiding over the case.

File with:

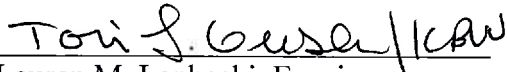
Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

With a copy to:

Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey A. Watson
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Office of Administrative Law Judge
Piatt Place, Suite 220
301 5th Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Lauren M. Lepkoski
Tori L. Giesler
Metropolitan Edison Company
2800 Pottsville Pike
P.O. Box 16001
Reading, Pennsylvania 19612-6001

Date: April 24, 2019


Lauren M. Lepkoski, Esquire
Tori L. Giesler, Esquire

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

MICHELE ARMSTRONG

V.

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

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Docket No. C-2018-3004052

**MOTION OF METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY TO DISMISS COMPLAINT OF
MICHELE ARMSTRONG FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ORDERS**

TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

Metropolitan Edison Company (“Met-Ed” or the “Company”) by and through its attorneys, Lauren M. Lepkoski and Tori L. Giesler, and pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.245, 5.371-5.372, hereby files this Motion to Dismiss the complaint of Michele Armstrong (“Complainant”) for her failure to comply with Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) Jeffrey A. Watson’s Orders or respond to discovery propounded by Met-Ed. In support thereof, the Company avers as follows:

I. BACKGROUND

1. On July 24, 2018, the Complainant filed a Formal Complaint with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) regarding her electric service at 1715 Firehouse Lane, Upper Black Eddy, Pennsylvania 18972, which was electronically served on the Company on August 16, 2018.

2. On September 5, 2018, the Company filed its Answer and New Matter denying the material allegations in the Formal Complaint. On that same day, the Company also filed Preliminary Objections to the Formal Complaint.

3. By letter dated September 20, 2018, the Complainant requested an extension of time to file a response to the Company’s Answer and New Matter and/or Preliminary Objections.

4. On September 28, 2018, a Motion Judge Assignment Notice was issued assigning ALJ Watson to this proceeding.

5. On October 5, 2018, ALJ Watson issued an Interim Order Granting Complainant's Petition for Extension of Time to Reply to Respondent's Answer and New Matter which directed the Complainant to file a responsive pleading to the Company's Answer and New Matter and/or Preliminary Objections not later than October 31, 2018.

6. By letter dated October 25, 2018, the Complainant requested a second extension of time to file a response to the Company's Answer and New Matter and/or Preliminary Objections.

7. On November 1, 2018, ALJ Watson issued an Interim Order Granting Complainant's Second Request for Extension of Time to Reply to Respondent's Answer and New Matter which directed the Complainant to file a responsive pleading to the Company's Answer and New Matter and/or Preliminary Objections not later than November 30, 2018.

8. No response to the Company's Answer and New Matter or Preliminary Objection was received from the Complainant.

9. On November 30, 2018, ALJ Watson issued an Interim Order denying the Company's Preliminary Objections and ordering that the Formal Complaint be referred to the Commission's Mediation Unit for mediation review.

10. Also on November 30, 2018, an Interim Order Establishing Initial Litigation Schedule was issued which set forth the schedule for discovery, the identification of witnesses, and filing of motions in this proceeding. Relevant to this Motion, ALJ Watson issued a witness notification deadline of January 14, 2019 and a discovery deadline of March 5, 2019.

11. On January 14, 2019, in accordance with the Interim Order Establishing a Litigation Schedule, the Company provided notice and summaries of testimony for its factual and expert witnesses.

12. On January 16, 2019, in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 5.341, the Company forwarded to the Complainant interrogatories and document requests (“Discovery Requests”) via first class mail. In its Discovery Requests, the Company sought information and documents related to the Complainant’s allegations regarding the Company’s smart meters. A full copy of the Company’s Discovery Requests is attached as Exhibit A.

13. The Complainant did not file any objection to the Discovery Requests and has not provided any responses or the requested documents by the due date. To date, no response to the Discovery Requests or telephone call has been received from the Complainant.

14. Further, the Complainant has ignored ALJ Watson’s Interim Order Establishing Litigation Schedule requiring the exchange expert and factual witness information by January 14, 2019, as no witness information has been received from the Complainant as of the filing of this Motion.

15. On February 19, 2019, the Company submitted a Motion to Compel due to the lack of any response from the Complainant to the Company’s Discovery Requests.

16. On March 25, 2019, in accordance with the Interim Order Establishing a Litigation Schedule, the Company submitted a status report.

17. On March 13, 2019, ALJ Watson issued an Interim Order which granted the Company’s Motion to Compel and directed the Complainant to serve upon counsel for Respondent, full and complete responses to all of the Discovery Requests served upon Complainant by the Company not later than April 5, 2019.

18. At no point did the Complainant contact the Company to discuss the Discovery Requests. To date, no responses to the Discovery Requests have been received from Complainant in contradiction to ALJ Watson Interim Order of March 13, 2019.

19. Further, the Complainant has ignored ALJ Watson's Interim Order Establishing Litigation Schedule issued on November 30, 2018, requiring the exchange expert and factual witness information by January 14, 2019, as no witness information has been received from the Complainant as of the filing of this Motion.

20. The Company now files this Motion to dismiss the Formal Complaint of the Complainant due to her repeated failures to abide by the Interim Orders of ALJ Watson and failure to exchange expert and factual witness information.

II. MOTION TO DISMISS

21. The Commission's regulations permit the discovery of "any matter, not privileged, which is relevant to the subject matter involved in the pending action." 52 Pa. Code § 5.321(c).

22. Generally speaking, this Commission applies a standard of relevance which is less restrictive than that required by parties to present information into the evidentiary record. It is not grounds for objection that the information sought will be inadmissible at hearing if the information sought appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. 52 Pa. Code § 5.321(c).

23. Discovery may be obtained regarding any matter relevant to the subject matter. Relevant evidence is evidence that tends to make an act at issue more or less probable. Moreover, evidence is relevant if it advances the inquiry in some degree and, thus, has probative value. Although the law does not furnish an absolute test of relevancy, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court follows a two-part analysis for determining relevance. In *Commonwealth v. Stewart*, 461 Pa. 274,

336 A.2d 282 (1975), the Court held that “[i]t must be determined first if the inference sought to be raised by the evidence bears upon a matter at issue in this case and, second, whether the evidence renders the desired inference more probable than it would be without the evidence. *Id.* at 284.

24. The information sought here by the Company is relatively simple and straightforward. It is directly relevant and material to the issues raised by the Complainant. The Company is entitled to the requested information to enable it to fully investigate and defend against the Complainant’s allegations.

25. The Commission’s regulations at 52 Pa. Code § 5.371 address the consequences of a participant’s failure to comply with the Commission’s discovery regulations and provides that the Commission or the presiding officer may, on motion, make an appropriate order if a party fails to appear, answer, file sufficient answers, file objections, make a designation or otherwise respond to discovery requests.

26. Further, 52 Pa. Code § 5.372 provides that the presiding officer may impose appropriate sanctions upon a party found to be found in violation of the obligations set forth in the Commission’s regulations.

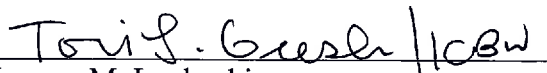
27. The Complainant has failed to provide complete responses to the Company’s Discovery Requests and failed to provide notification of any potential witnesses in contradiction to the Interim Orders issued by ALJ Watson.

28. The Complainant’s actions demonstrate a consistent lack of cooperation and willingness to participate in this proceeding as required under the Commission’s regulations. As a result, the Formal Complaint in this proceeding should be dismissed in its entirety.

WHEREFORE, Metropolitan Edison Company respectfully requests that the Commission dismiss, with prejudice, the Complaint of Michele Armstrong.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 24, 2019


Lauren M. Lepkoski
Attorney No. 94800
Tori L. Giesler
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FirstEnergy Service Company
2800 Pottsville Pike
P.O. Box 16001
Reading, Pennsylvania 19612-6001
(610) 921-6203
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Counsel for Metropolitan Edison Company



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Reading, PA 19612-6001

Tori L. Giesler, Esq.
(610) 921-6203
(330) 315-9263 (Fax)

610-929-3601

January 16, 2019

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL


Michele Armstrong
1715 Firehouse Lane
Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972

Re: Michele Armstrong v. Metropolitan Edison Company
Docket No. C-2018-3004052

Dear Ms. Armstrong:

Enclosed please find the Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents (Set I) to Michele Armstrong. Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.341 and 5.349, *et seq.*, your answers are due within twenty days of service of this letter (February 5, 2019). In addition, any objections are due within ten days of service of this letter (January 26, 2019). This document has been served as indicated within the Certificate of Service.

Very truly yours,


Tori L. Giesler

Enclosures

c: As Per Certificate of Service
The Honorable Jeffrey Watson, Public Utility Commission (Cover Letter and Certificate)
Rosemary Chiavetta, Esq., Public Utility Commission (Cover Letter and Certificate)

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

MICHELE ARMSTRONG

v.

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

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Docket No. C-2018-3004052

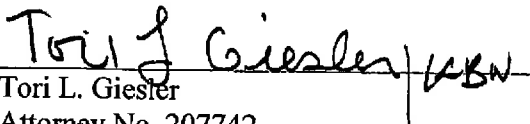
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents of Metropolitan Edison Company to Michele Armstrong 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:

Michele Armstrong
1715 Firehouse Lane
Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972

Dated: January 16, 2019


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

Counsel for Metropolitan Edison Company

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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Docket No. C-2018-3004052

**INTERROGATORIES AND REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS OF
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY TO MICHELE ARMSTRONG, SET I**

Metropolitan Edison Company hereby propounds these Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents (Set I) to Michele Armstrong (the "Complainant"). Telephone or other contact concerning availability and timing of formal responses is encouraged. The answer to each interrogatory should be started on a new page. The answers should restate the question asked and indicate the person(s) supplying the information.

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.342, you must send your answers to me within 20 days (February 5, 2019) and objections within 10 days (January 26, 2019). Your answers and objections should not be filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. You should only file the cover letter and certificate of service, with the Commission's Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta and send a copy to Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey A. Watson. If you have any objection to any of the interrogatories or the request for documents, please identify the interrogatory or request and state your objection in full as to why you should not have to answer/produce it. Any objection not raised within the 10-day period provided for by 52 Pa. Code § 5.342(c) will be deemed waived and you will not be permitted to raise the objection at a later time.

Dated: January 16, 2019

INSTRUCTIONS

A. In answering these Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents, please furnish all information available to you, including any such information possessed by others that you can obtain, and not merely such information known of your own personal knowledge. If you cannot answer the Interrogatories and Requests in full after exercising due diligence to secure the information to do so, so state and answer to the extent possible.

B. Other than for the reasons identified herein, you must provide an answer to all Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents. If the answer to the question is “none” or “unknown,” such statement must be written in the answer. If you consider the question to be inapplicable, “N/A” must be written in the answer. If an answer is omitted because of a claim of privilege, the basis of privilege is to be stated.

C. If the answer to any of the Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents is that you lack knowledge of some or all of the requested information, describe all efforts made by you to obtain the information necessary to answer that Interrogatory or Request.

D. These Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents are to be deemed continuing in nature, and you shall promptly supply, by way of supplemental response, any additional responsive information that may become known to you or anyone acting on your behalf after your answers have been prepared or served.

E. As used herein, the terms “Complainant” and “you” refer to Michele Armstrong and her attorneys, agents, or representatives.

F. As used herein, the terms “Company” or “Respondent” refer to Metropolitan Edison Company, and any agent, agency, or affiliate thereof.

G. As used herein, the term “proceeding” refers to the instant complaint proceeding at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission at Docket No. C-2018-3004052.

H. As used herein, the terms “service location,” “property,” or “home” refer to your service address of 1715 Firehouse Lane, Upper Black Eddy, Pennsylvania 18972.

I. As used herein, the term “household” refers to you and all other individuals who reside at the service location.

J. As used herein, the terms “document” or “documentation” includes any written, printed, typed, recorded, or graphic matter, whether produced or reproduced or stored on paper, cards, tapes, film, electronic facsimile, computer storage devices or any other devices or media, including, but not limited to papers; books; letters; photographs; objects; tangible things; correspondence; e-mails; websites; webpages; telegrams; cables; telex messages; memoranda; medical records; notes; notations; records; work papers; transcripts; minutes; reports and recordings of telephone or other conversations, or of interviews, or of conferences, or of other meetings; affidavits; statements; opinions; proposals; reports; surveys; plans; studies; analyses; audits; evaluations; contracts; agreements; journals; statistical records; invoices; receipts; desk calendars; appointment books; diaries; lists; tabulations; summaries; sound recordings; computer printouts; data processing input and output; microfilms; all records kept by electronic, photographic, or mechanical means; and things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated. When one or more of the foregoing documents is requested or referred to, the request or reference shall include, but is not limited to, the original and each and every copy and draft thereof having writings, notations, corrections, or markings unique to such copy or draft.

K. As used herein, all other words are to be given their ordinary and usual meanings, according to a current edition of Webster’s Dictionary.

**INTERROGATORIES OF METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY TO MICHELE
ARMSTRONG, SET I**

1. Are you claiming that the installation of a smart meter at your property would cause or contribute to an adverse health condition for any member of your household? _____

2. If the answer to question 1 is yes, please provide the following information for each household member whose health you claim will be affected:
 - a. Name;

 - b. Age;

 - c. The specific health condition that you believe would be caused by or contributed to as a result of the smart meter being installed;

 - d. Whether the household member is already experiencing the specific health condition and, if so, the date on which the condition was first experienced and the date on which the condition was first diagnosed by a medical doctor;

 - e. Whether the household member has experienced the specific health condition within the last four years;

 - f. Any medication prescribed to the household member; and

 - g. Whether the household member has visited a medical professional for the specific health condition, and if so, the name, address, and phone number of the medical professional and the date of the visit(s) to the medical professional.

- a. Please identify each document you rely on in support of the position.
 - b. Do you intend to rely on these documents at the time of the hearing in this proceeding?
 - c. Please describe in detail all information you have to support this position.
 - d. Do you have any relevant educational or work background that qualifies you to assert this position?
 - e. If yes, please identify the relevant educational or work background that qualifies you to assert this position.
8. In your complaint, you state that you have “never requested an Opt-In to the PA Smart Meter Program.” Please provide the following information related to this statement:
- a. Is it your position that a customer has the right to request a smart meter not be installed at her service location?
 - b. Is it your position that a customer must request smart meter installation?
 - c. Is it your position that Act 129 of 2008 does not require the utility to install smart meters throughout its service territory?
9. Is it your position that you would like to opt out completely from smart meter installation?

10. Do you believe the installation of a smart meter at your property would violate the privacy or security of a member of your household?
11. If yes to question 10, please specifically describe each of your concerns regarding your household's privacy or security after the installation of a smart meter.
12. Please provide the following information regarding your position that the installation of a smart meter would violate your household's privacy or security:
 - a. Please identify each document you rely on in support of the position.
 - b. Do you intend to rely on these documents at the time of the hearing in this proceeding?
 - c. Please describe in detail all information you have to support this position.
 - d. Do you have any relevant educational or work background that qualifies you to assert this position?
 - e. Is yes, please identify the relevant educational or work background that qualifies you to assert this position.
13. To your knowledge, has a smart meter been installed by the Company at your property?
14. Please describe in detail how you believe a smart meter operates.
15. Please list the specific issues you intend to raise at the hearing in this proceeding.

16. Please identify the legal support, including specific citations, for each issue identified in question 15.
17. — Please list the factual support for each issue identified in question 15.
18. Please provide the following information for all witnesses you intend to call to testify at the hearing in this proceeding.
 - a. Provide the full name of the witness.
 - b. Provide the address and telephone number of the witness.
 - c. Provide the title or position held by the witness.
 - d. Provide the educational background of the witness.
 - e. Provide the employment background of the witness.
 - f. Provide the scope of the testimony for the witness.
19. Would any witness identified in question 18 be offered as an expert?
 - a. If yes, provide the curriculum vitae of the witness and a summary of the testimony the expert witness is expected to provide.
20. Please describe in detail your educational background.
 - a. Please list any relevant certificates, trainings, or degrees that you obtained.
 - b. Please provide a description of the certificate, training, or degree.
 - c. Please provide the date that any certificate, training, or degree was obtained.

- d. Please provide the name and address of the institution which provided the certificate, training, or degree.
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21. Please describe in detail your employment history.
 - a. Please provide your employer name and address.
 - b. Please provide the title of your position.
 - c. Please provide the dates of your employment.
 - d. Please provide the duties performed in your position.

**REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS OF METROPOLITAN EDISON
COMPANY TO MICHELE ARMSTRONG, SET I**

22. Please provide copies of all documentation supporting your position that the installation of a smart meter at your home would cause or contribute to an adverse health condition in any member of your household.
23. Please provide copies of all documentation associated with visits by members of your household to a medical professional related to the health conditions identified in question 2, including but not limited to any and all medical records, medical visit reports, and notes and letters from medical doctors or other health care professionals.
24. Please provide copies of all documentation you intend to refer to at the hearing in this proceeding related to smart meters and/or radio frequency fields and health.
25. Please provide copies of all documentation supporting your position that smart meters would create safety issues for you or members of your household.
26. Please provide copies of all documentation you intend to refer to at the hearing in this proceeding related to the safety concerns of smart meters.
27. Please provide copies of all documentation supporting your position that smart meters would violate the privacy or security of your household.

28. Please provide copies of all documentation you intend to refer to at the hearing in this proceeding supporting your position that smart meters would violate the privacy or security of your household.

29. Please provide copies of all documentation supporting your position that your household may opt out of smart meter installation.
30. Please provide copies of all documentation you intend to refer to at the hearing in this proceeding supporting your position that a household may opt out of smart meter installation.
31. Please provide copies of all documentation you rely upon in making your statement that “many reputable experts and institutions have indicated [that the installation of a smart meter] will jeopardize the health, safety, financial resources, privacy, security, and well-being of my family.”
32. Please provide a copy of all proposed exhibits you intend to submit for the hearing in this proceeding.
33. Please provide copies of all documentation you are relying upon in support of your positions in this proceeding.
34. Please provide copies of all documentation you referenced, referred to, or otherwise relied upon in preparing your responses to these discovery requests.

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

MICHELE ARMSTRONG

V.

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

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Docket No. C-2018-3004052

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE


I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the Motion to Dismiss of Metropolitan Edison Company upon the individuals listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

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

Michele Armstrong
1715 Firehouse Lane
Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972
michelearmstrong9@gmail.com

Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey A. Watson
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Piatt Place, Suite 220
301 5th Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dated: April 24, 2019



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