

Legal Department 2301 Market Street / S23-1 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Direct Dial: 215.841.6863

July 15, 2019

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

Re:

PECO Energy Company's Pilot Plan for an Advance Payments Program Submitted Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §56.17 and PECO Energy Company's Petition for Temporary Waiver of Portions of the Commission's Regulations with Respect to that Plan Docket No. P-2016-2573023

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

**PECO's Answer to Joint Application for a Stay of the Commission's Order** in the above matter is attached for filing.

Very truly yours,

Ward L. Smith

Counsel for PECO Energy Company

WS/adz Enclosures

Cc: Certificate of Service

# BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PECO Energy Company's Pilot Plan for an

Advance Payments Program Submitted Pursuant :

To 52 Pa. Code §56.17 and PECO Energy : Docket No. P-2016-2573023

Company's Petition for Temporary Waiver :

Of Portions of the Commission's Regulations :

With Respect to that Plan :

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Ward L. Smith hereby certify that on July 15, 2019, I served a copy of PECO Energy Company's *Answer to Joint Application for a Stay of the Commission's Order* in the above matter, upon all interested parties via overnight delivery to:

Gina L. Miller, Esquire
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Robert W. Ballenger, Esquire Josie Pickens, Esquire Lydia Gottesfeld, Esquire Community Legal Services, Inc. 1424 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

Lauren M. Burge Harrison W. Breitman Assistant Consumer Advocates Counsel for Office of Consumer Advocates 555 Walnut Street 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Forum Place Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923 Patrick M. Cicero, Esquire Elizabeth R. Marx, Esquire Kadeem Morris, Esquire Pennsylvania Utility Law Project 118 Locust Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

Deanne M. O'Dell, Esquire Sarah C. Stoner, Esquire Daniel Clearfield, Esquire Karen O. Moury, Esquire Eckert, Seamans, Cherin & Mellott, LLC 213 Market Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101 Dated: July 15, 2019

Ward L. Smith

Counsel for PECO Energy Company 2301 Market Street, S23-1

2301 Market Street, S23-1 Philadelphia, PA 19103 Phone: (215) 841-6863

Fax: 215.568.3389

Ward.Smith@exeloncorp.com

## BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PECO ENERGY COMPANY'S : PILOT PLAN FOR AN ADVANCE : PAYMENTS PROGRAM SUBMITTED : PURSUANT TO 52 PA. CODE \$56.17 :

:

AND : DOCKET NO. P-2016-2573023

:

PECO ENERGY COMPANY'S

PETITION FOR TEMPORARY

WAIVER OF PORTIONS OF THE

COMMISSION'S REGULATIONS

WITH RESPECT TO THAT PLAN

:

### **Answer of PECO Energy Company**

to

Joint Application of CAUSE-PA and TURN et al. for a Stay of the Commission's Order Entered June 18, 2019

On June 18, 2019, the Commission issued its Opinion and Order in this matter. On July 3, 2019, Petitions for Reconsideration were filed by CAUSE-PA and TURN *et al.* (acting jointly) and by the Office of Consumer Advocate. On that same date, CAUSE-PA and TURN *et al.* filed a "Joint Application . . . . for Stay." PECO is separately responding to the Petitions for Reconsideration; this Answer addresses only the request for a stay.

PECO does not object to the requested stay. While PECO does not agree with all the arguments made by the Joint Applicants, the Joint Applicants are correct in their assumption (p. 4, ¶ 5 and p. 5, ¶ 8) that PECO prefers to have the issues raised in the Petitions for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For example, PECO does not agree with the Joint Applicants (p. 3, ¶ 4) that the prepaid meter program approved by the Commission could "deprive residential customers of their statutory rights." PECO took substantial steps in its pilot to avoid such deprivation, and the Commission's Order layered in additional protections of consumer rights. However, this issue need not be resolved in addressing the Joint Application for Stay given that PECO is not objecting to the stay.

Reconsideration resolved with certainty before PECO begins to spend substantial resources implementing the pilot.

In particular, PECO notes that, under the Commission's June 18, 2019 Order (p. 89, Ordering Paragraph 7 and p. 91, Ordering Paragraph 9)<sup>2</sup>, PECO is allowed to make a compliance filing on or before August 17, 2019, but that, if the Company chooses not to make a compliance filing by that date, the Commission may mark this docket closed. The two Petitions for Reconsideration address numerous pilot program components that would need to be addressed in PECO's August 17, 2019 compliance filing. The Commission is not likely to have reviewed and resolved those substantive issues in time for PECO to integrate the Commission's forthcoming Order on Reconsideration and still make a compliance filing by August 17, 2019. Therefore, in order to make best use of the time and resources of all parties and the Commission in the instant case, PECO agrees that the Commission should stay the implementation of the June 18 Order until the Commission resolves the issues raised in the Petitions for Reconsideration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Page 89, Ordering Paragraph 7 states that "within sixty (60) days of the date of entry of this Opinion and Order, PECO Energy Company may file a pilot plan in compliance with this Opinion and Order which creates a modified prepaid metering pilot program consistent with" specified conditions.

Page 91, Ordering Paragraph 9 states that "if PECO Energy Company chooses not to file a compliance plan within sixty (60) days of the entry of this Opinion and order, this docket may be closed by Secretarial Letter."

### **Conclusion**

PECO therefore does not object to the requested stay of the Commission's June 18, 2019

Order until such time as the Commission issues an Order on Reconsideration and sets a new timeline for a future PECO compliance filing.

Respectfully submitted,

Ward Smith

Assistant General Counsel PECO Energy Company

Ward.smith@exeloncorp.com

215-841-6863

July 15, 2019