

July 29, 2020

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Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta & Honorable Judge Steven Haas
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission
400 North Street 2nd Floor West
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Dorca Mejia v. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation
Docket no: F-2020-3019000

Subject:

Briefing Order of Hearing Held on June 23, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Honorable Steven Haas,

On Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 10:00 AM during the hearing, I had the opportunity to present my defense against PPL Electric Utilities for the charges of \$ 8,276.24 that were transferred into my name from the account of tenant, Andrene Tutko, who lived in the 1st floor apt #1. According to PPL that is for her usage of electricity from October 15, 2016 until October 15, 2018.

PPL company is holding me liable after Tony Harris, one of PPL's employees investigated a claim on my property, 37 Broad Street apartment 1, 2 and 3, where he allegedly found a receptacle in the kitchen second floor apt #3 connected to first floor apt #1.

On Tuesday, June 23, 2020 I testified that I was not present during the investigation, but I conducted my own investigation and found out that the information reported by Tony to PPL was incorrect because in the kitchen on the 2nd floor apt #3 there was **NOT** a working receptacle connected to the first floor apt #1 as Tony reported to PPL Electric Utilities.

PPL records show that on October 4, 2018 Tony Harris conducted the investigation in my property for apt #1-3. During the investigation, Tony allegedly found a receptacle in the kitchen of apt #3 (2nd floor) connected to apt #1 (1st floor). However, Tony did not search behind the receptacle where the wires that had the power and did not plug anything in to verify if the receptacle truly worked.

Records show the company recorded a foreign wiring confirmed by Tony for a receptacle found regarding the connection of these receptacles, under Act 54 known as a “foreign load” on October 08, 2018.

Important details overlooked by PPL about the form Act 54 completed by Gelson.

On June 23, 2020 I presented that on October 11, 2018 Gelson Colon completed the Form PA ACT 54 1993 PROPERTY OWNER’S NOTIFICATION FOREIGN LOAD/ WIRING FIXED. Gelson testified in the hearing he completed this form following a protocol from before in 2014 when my property had a foreign load for apt #1, but I noticed the form shows the correction Gelson made as: REMOVED WIRE connected to the first floor apt #1. I noticed that in the form Gelson NEVER informed PPL he corrected wiring of connected to a receptacle, therefore PPL overlooked the description written in the form. The form asks, “please describe the corrections such as: hot water heater, furnace, hallway lights, etc”. That is necessary to describe in the form the description to identify what is contributing usage of electricity from one person or apartment to another person or apartment in another unit.

In the hearing, I presented evidence that my property was fully investigated by PPL in 2014. And I responded by making the necessary correction for wiring common area patio light found connected to first floor apt# 1 in 2014 known as foreign load. I also mentioned that I went to court for the electricity of the first floor apt #1 because tenants wanted more money from me, but their petition was denied.

Testimonies to support Evidence:

Testimony from Gelson Colon in the hearing on June 23, 2020 “Receptacle was not working”.

Gelson Colon, who worked with the electricity testified that he was present during the investigation. He admitted he saw when presence of electricity was detected by the electric tester used by Tony when put it in the receptacle during the inspection in the kitchen of apt #3 (2nd floor). However, he found out that the receptacle was not functional when he worked in it. He testified that the power was coming from two wires left behind the receptacle that were still connected to apt #1 on the first floor. Those were the wires that showed presence of electricity when investigated by Tony. He explained that he had to search inside in order to find out what was showing power, but Tony did not search inside because that is not required in an investigation as he said in his testimony.

Gelson also testified that he eliminated the receptacle during his testimony. These are images to support what Gelson found when he worked with the electricity.

Figure 1 Gelson tested wires attached to the receptacle apt #3. They had no power



Figure 2 Gelson tested wires and showed power. Those were the two extra wires left behind the receptacle that had power connected to apt #1.



Testimony from Honore Pierre in the hearing on June 23, 2020 “Receptacle was not Working”.

Honore Pierre was the tenant, who opened the claim. He lived on the 2nd floor in apt # 3 from December 2016 to August 2018 where Tony allegedly confirmed foreign wiring. After I investigated him, I asked him to clarify the truth. He testified against the information Tony reported to PPL about a foreign wiring confirmed for the receptacle on the 2nd floor in the kitchen where he lived. He testified that the receptacle in the kitchen of the 2nd floor in apt #3 was not working since he moved in. He also testified in the hearing that he reported to Gelson Colon when he moved in but never notified Dorca Mejia, the owner.

Testimony from I, Dorca Mejia on June 23, 2020: The reason why there two wires behind the receptacle in the kitchen 2nd floor apt #3.

I, Dorca Mejia, explained the reason in the hearing why there were two extra wires left behind the receptacle on the 2nd floor in apt #3 connected to apt #1 on the 1st floor. I presented evidence that my property is a two-story house. When I purchased it was a single house, but it was converted into 3 apartments. I explained that all wiring was connected to apt #1 on the first floor. When the electrician was doing the electrical work to separate each unit, he made a mistake by leaving those two extra wires behind the receptacle on the 2nd floor in the kitchen of apt #3 that were still connected to apt #1 on the first floor. However, the two extra wires that had power were NOT connected to the receptacle as Tony reported.

Testimony from Tony Harris

On June 23, 2020 during the hearing Tony Harris Testified that:

He used an electric tester during the investigation in my property and he explained that his job description is **NOT** required by the company to plug or search in a receptacle during an investigation because that is the job of an electrician to check. While he was testifying, the Honorable Judge, Steven Haas asked Tony if it is possible that an electric tester can show power for wires that are behind a receptacle like in this case. Tony responded yes that is possible.

I conducted research about Foreign Load

In order to understand better, when there is a foreign load in a property, I conducted two different research. The 1st is from the website of PPL Electric Utilities and the 2nd is from a website from Pennsylvania to help resolve cases of foreign load.

1st Research

Foreign Load Described by PPL Electric Utilities

PPL has the description of foreign load posted on May 03, 2006 in PPL's website. "Section 1529.1 of ACT 54 OF 1993" which requires the owner of a residential rental multi-dwelling building or mobile home park to be responsible for utility service when the units are "not individually metered."

For PPL, a foreign load is when "A residential rental unit is considered 'not individually metered' **when wiring from other parts of the building**, another apartment, or from common use areas and electrical equipment outside of the rental unit is connected to the meter serving that particular rental unit".¹ (Please see website for complete information)

2nd Research

Foreign Load Described by Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

According to a Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Bulletin, "The term 'foreign load' describes a situation where an individually-metered dwelling unit's utility meter **registers usage** for service provided to another person or other persons in the building, for example, a shared water heater or space heating system, or for use in a common areas of the building such as hallway lighting, a furnace fan or laundry room appliances".² (see website for more details)

This description from **PPL about foreign load caught my attention because** the description is different from the Bulletin from Pennsylvania that also has the description of Foreign load for Act 54 of 1993 and Section 1529.1. The important difference between PPL and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Bulletin description of what a "foreign load" is that the Bulletin requires registered usage of someone else in the building.

To conclude:

From all information stated above and most importantly because, Honore Pierre, the tenant who lived in apt #3 during the time of the issue never contributed to usage of electricity for apt #1 on the first floor (he even testified that the receptacle never worked since he moved in). The company PPL should not charge me for the usage of electricity from Andrene Tutko, who lived in apt #1 with the amount \$8,276.24 if no one else used the electricity belonging to Andrene's apartment.

¹ <https://www.pplelectric.com/utility/about-us/electric-rates-and-rules/remsi/foreign-load.aspx>

² <http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol28/28-44/1794.html>

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Docket Number: **FE-2020-3019000**

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document upon the parties, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of § 5.14 (*relating to service by party*).

The Certificate of Service is a notification to the parties to the case of the Exception or Brief, etc. that you are submitting for filing.

(List names and addresses of parties and the way each was served such as; USPS, Email, Fax, Mail Service.

I have emailed a copy of this Briefing Order To:

Honorable Judge presiding Officer Steven Haas
Kimberly G. Krupka of PPL Electric Utilities Corp
Kimberly A. Klock of PPL Electric Utilities Corp

Dated this 29 day of July , 2020

Dorca Mejia

(Signature)

Respectfully,

Dorca Mejia