

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

Petition of PECO Energy Company for Expedited Approval of Temporary Universal Service Measures to Address COVID-19 Related Economic Hardship and Provide Additional Opportunities for Electric Usage Reduction

**Public Meeting October 28, 2021
3020555-LAW
Docket Nos. P-2020-3020555
M-2018-3005795
M-2015-2507139**

MOTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) is a Petition of PECO Energy Company filed on June 26, 2020, that seeks approval of proposed temporary universal service measures to address economic hardship related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as additional opportunities for electric usage reductions.

This Petition was previously submitted for disposition to the Commission at its Public Meeting of August 6, 2020. A motion to adopt the staff recommendation did not achieve majority support. At that time, the Commissioners expressed disagreement as to whether PECO had met its burden of proof. The Petition has remained pending, and PECO has not filed a Petition to withdraw it.

In the interim, additional actions taken by the Commission to address the COVID-19 Pandemic became effective. Pursuant to a Motion it adopted at the March 11, 2021 Public Meeting, the Commission approved additional customer protections that became effective on March 31, 2021.¹ These protections included the availability of extended payment arrangements for up to five years for residential customers. The Commission also took note of recently adopted substantial state and federal assistance programs and encouraged utilities to notify customers about all available sources of aid.

Subsequently, the Governor's Emergency Proclamation expired, and all Commission Emergency Orders related to the COVID-19 Pandemic were discontinued by operation of law on September 30, 2021. In reviewing these developments, I find the time-sensitive, temporary nature of the relief requested in PECO's Petition central to the disposition of this matter. PECO intended the proposed bill credit to address circumstances as they existed in the Summer of 2020, and it based its projected budget on Customer Assistance Program enrollments as of July 1, 2020. Additionally, PECO proposed to waive certain Customer Assistance Program enrollment and recertification requirements through December 1, 2020, and certain Low Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP) requirements for six months. Finally, PECO proposed a separate modification to its LIURP Program that had an expiration date of December 31, 2020.

¹ *Public Utility Service Termination Moratorium*, Docket M-2020-3019244 (Order entered March 18, 2021).

In light the of the temporary nature of the relief that PECO requested, and the intervening passage of time, I find that the PECO Petition is now moot, and move for its dismissal on that basis.

I encourage PECO to promote its existing Commission-approved universal service and energy conservation plan to assist customers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. I also reaffirm our expectation that PECO and other utilities continue to monitor available federal and state assistance programs and notify customers of all available sources of aid.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT:

1. The Petition of PECO Energy Company is dismissed.
2. The Law Bureau prepare an Order consistent with this Motion.
3. This docket be marked closed.

Date: October 28, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.F. Coleman, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR., VICE CHAIRMAN