



June 30, 2022

**VIA E-FILE**

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

**Re: PPL Electric Utilities Corporation's Proposed Universal Service and Energy  
Conservation Plan for 2023-2027  
Docket No. M-2022-3031727**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for filing, please find the **Petition to Intervene of the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA)**.

Copies have been served as indicated on the enclosed Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth R. Marx".

Elizabeth R. Marx, Esq.  
*Counsel for CAUSE-PA*

CC: Certificate of Service  
Joseph Magee, Bureau of Consumer Services, [jennifjohn@pa.gov](mailto:jennifjohn@pa.gov)  
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**BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation’s Proposed :  
Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan : Docket No. M-2022-3031727  
for 2023-2027 :

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have, on this day, served copies of the **Petition to Intervene of the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania** in the above captioned matter upon the following persons and in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54.

**SERVICE VIA EMAIL ONLY**

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**BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation's Proposed :  
Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan : Docket No. M-2022-3031727  
for 2023-2027 :

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**PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE COALITION FOR AFFORDABLE  
UTILITY SERVICES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN PENNSYLVANIA**

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**PENNSYLVANIA UTILITY LAW PROJECT**

*Counsel for CAUSE-PA*

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**June 30, 2022**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC or Commission), 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.71-.76, the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA), through its counsel at the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project, hereby files this Petition to Intervene in the above captioned proceeding regarding the Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL). In support thereof, CAUSE-PA states as follows:

1. On April 1, 2022, PPL filed its proposed Universal Services and Energy Conservation Plan for 2023-2027 (USECP or Plan), including proposals to further adopt policy provisions set forth in the Commission's CAP Policy Statement.<sup>1</sup>
2. PPL proposes to amend its USECP to accomplish the following:
  - Adopt the energy burdens as set forth in the Commission's CAP Policy Statement
  - Amend the CAP program structure moving from an 18-month program to a 12-month program design
  - Change the primary payment option to a percent of income payment plan from a percent of bill plan
  - Increase the minimum bill for both non-heating and heating customers
  - Exclude customers from enrolling in CAP who are receiving energy from an electric generation supplier (must return to default supply) or are enrolled in a time of use program
  - Eliminate the \$5 arrearage co-payment
  - Implement CAP customer payment reviews to confirm customers are not paying more than the average bill
  - Change recertification guidelines for CAP customers who received LIHEAP or have SSI as their primary source of income
  - Adjust maximum CAP credit amounts
  - Move customers who have missed two or more payments to active collections rather than removing the customer from CAP for non-payment
  - Update fraud protocols

USECP at 17-19

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<sup>1</sup> 2019 Amendments to CAP Policy Statement, Final Policy Statement and Order, Docket No. M-2019-3012599 (order entered Nov. 5, 2019)

3. Pursuant to the requirements contained in 52 Pa. Code § 5.61(e), CAUSE-PA asserts that it has standing to intervene in this proceeding.
4. Eligibility to intervene in Commission proceedings is governed by Section 5.72, which provides that “[a] petition to intervene may be filed by a person claiming a right to intervene or an interest of such nature that intervention is necessary or appropriate to the administration of the statute under which the proceeding is brought.”<sup>2</sup>
5. Section 5.72 further provides that the right or interest may be one “which may be directly affected and which is not adequately represented by existing participants, and as to which the petitioner may be bound by the action of the Commission in the proceeding.”<sup>3</sup>
6. While Section 5.72 speaks of the rights of a “person” to intervene, the Commonwealth Court has consistently stated that “an association may have standing as a representative of its members... as long as the organization has at least one member who has or will suffer a direct, immediate, and substantial injury to interest as a result of the challenged action, [the organization] has standing.”<sup>4</sup>
7. CAUSE-PA is an unincorporated association of low-income individuals that advocates on behalf of its members to enable consumers of limited economic means to connect to and maintain affordable water, electric, heating, and telecommunication services.

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<sup>2</sup> 52 Pa. Code. § 5.72(a).

<sup>3</sup> 52 Pa. Code § 5.72(a)(2).

<sup>4</sup> Energy Cons. Council of Pa. v. Pa. PUC, 995 A.2d 465, 476 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2010) (alteration in original) (citing Tripps Park v. Pa. PUC, 415 A.2d 967 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 1980); Parents United for Better Schools v. School District of Phila., 646 A.2d 689 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 1994)).

8. CAUSE-PA membership is open to individuals residing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who are committed to the goal of helping low-income Pennsylvanians to connect and maintain affordable utility services.
9. CAUSE-PA is located, c/o Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, 118 Locust Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.
10. As an association of low-income individuals, CAUSE-PA has a direct interest in the prompt and efficient implementation of the Commission’s CAP Policy Statement reforms through updated Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plans both in PPL’s service territory and across the state. These reforms are designed to address deep and persistent levels of unaffordability within CAP. If allowed to persist without mitigation through the adoption of the Commission’s CAP Policy Statement reforms, economically vulnerable households will continue to be at risk of harm to their health and financial stability.<sup>5</sup>
11. CAUSE-PA has standing to intervene because at least one member of CAUSE-PA will experience a direct, immediate, and substantial impact to their interests as a result of this proceeding.<sup>6</sup>
12. CAUSE-PA is represented in this proceeding by:

Elizabeth R. Marx, Esq.  
Ria M. Pereira, Esq.  
John Sweet, Esq.  
Lauren N. Berman, Esq.  
**Pennsylvania Utility Law Project**  
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<sup>5</sup> See Diana Hernandez, Understanding “Energy Insecurity” and Why It Matter to Health, J. Social Science & Medicine 167, at 1-10 (2016).

<sup>6</sup> See Energy Cons. Council of Pa., 995 A.2d at 476.

13. Counsel for CAUSE-PA consents to the service of documents by electronic mail to [pulp@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:pulp@pautilitylawproject.org), as provided in 52 Pa. Code § 1.54(b)(3).

WHEREFORE, for the above noted reasons, the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA) respectfully requests that the Commission grant its request to formally intervene in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Counsel for CAUSE-PA*



Elizabeth R. Marx, Esq., PA ID: 309014

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Dated: June 30, 2022