



April 19, 2024

***Via E-Mail Only***

Honorable Mark A. Hoyer  
Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
301 5th Avenue, Suite 220  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
[mhoyer@pa.gov](mailto:mhoyer@pa.gov)

**Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Duquesne Light Company  
Docket No. R-2024-3046523**

***Prehearing Memorandum of CAUSE-PA***

Your Honor:

Please find the attached **Prehearing Memorandum of the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA)** in the above-noted proceeding.

As indicated on the attached Certificate of Service, service on the parties was accomplished by email only.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ria M. Pereira, Esq.  
*Counsel for CAUSE-PA*

CC: Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta (via E-file)  
Certificate of Service

**BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission** :  
 :  
 v. : **Docket No. R-2024-3046523**  
 :  
**Duquesne Light Company** :

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**PREHEARING MEMORANDUM  
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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Lauren N. Berman, Esq., PA ID: 310116

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**April 19, 2024**

On April 15, 2024, a Prehearing Conference Order was issued by the Honorable Mark A. Hoyer, Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), setting a telephonic prehearing conference for Monday, April 22, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., and requiring parties to file a Prehearing Memorandum no later than Friday, April 19, 2024 at 3:30 P.M. In response, 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 Prehearing Memorandum.

**I. Background**

On March 20, 2024, Duquesne Light Company (Duquesne Light or the Company) submitted a rate filing, Supplement No. 71 to the Company's Tariff Electric - Pa. P.U.C. No. 25. In Supplement No. 71, the Company proposes a general increase in electric distribution rates of approximately \$133 million. Because the proposed base rate increase includes \$32 million of revenues currently recovered under surcharges, the increase to customers over current charges is \$101 million. If the Company's request is approved in its entirety, the total bill for an average residential customer using 600 kilowatt-hours would increase from \$130.67 to \$139.19 per month, or 6.52%. (Filing Letter, p. 1).

On March 28, 2024, CAUSE-PA filed a Petition to Intervene and Answer in the above-captioned proceeding, in which CAUSE-PA respectfully requests that the Commission enter an order granting CAUSE-PA full status as an intervener in this proceeding with active party status.

**II. Issues to be Presented**

In addition to compliance with sound rate making principles, including the requirement that rates be just and reasonable, DLC must also ensure that its rates and tariff comply with universal service requirements. See 66 Pa. C.S. § 2804. In determining whether rates are just and

reasonable, the Commission must examine whether rates are affordable and accessible to those served.

If the Commission approves any electric distribution rate increase, the Commission should condition approval on DLC's agreement to perform such actions as are necessary to ensure compliance with applicable sections of the Public Utility Code, Commission regulations and guidelines, and settlement agreements.

CAUSE-PA has conducted an initial review of DLC's proposed tariff changes and testimony and opposes DLC's request on the grounds that the proposed rate increase and tariff changes may result in unjust and unreasonable rates that would impose severe hardship on low and moderate income residential customers. CAUSE-PA identifies the following specific issues of concern, which must be addressed in this proceeding to determine whether DLC's proposals are just, reasonable, and in the public interest -- though it reserves the right to raise additional issues which may arise through the course of this proceeding:

- i. The conformity to law and the effect of DLC's rate filing and proposed rate increase on low income households.
- ii. The effect of DLC proposal to increase its fixed monthly charge for residential customers to \$15.00 per month (DLC St. 14 at 12), including the effect of this proposed increase on low income households, and on the ability to achieve appreciable bill savings through adoption of energy efficiency measures.
- iii. The effect of DLC's Building Electrification Program proposals, and Transportation Electrification (TE) proposals on DLC's residential customers, particularly DLC's low income customers, and whether DLC's proposals are just, reasonable, and in the public interest.
- iv. The effect of DLC's rate filing and proposed rate increase on low income households enrolled in or eligible for the Company's Universal Service

and Energy Conservation Programs, and the continued adequacy of those programs in delivering universally accessible service.

**III. Witnesses and Testimony**

CAUSE-PA intends to present the following witness to testify in this matter, but reserves the right to call additional or substitute witnesses as may be warranted upon proper notice to

Your Honor and the parties:

Harry Geller, Esq.  
c/o 118 Locust Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
[hgeller@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:hgeller@pautilitylawproject.org)

Mr. Geller will address the issues identified above, as well as other issues that may arise throughout this proceeding.

**IV. Discovery**

CAUSE-PA is involved in discussions with the parties regarding mutually agreeable modifications related to discovery in this proceeding.

In addition, CAUSE-PA requests that discovery modifications in this matter include modifications requiring that discovery modifications granted by the ALJ at the time of the prehearing conference are considered effective as of the date of the prehearing conference.

**V. Public Input Hearings**

CAUSE-PA supports the scheduling of public input hearings in this matter. CAUSE-PA recommends that the Commission consider the use of telephonic and in-person public input hearings to encourage participation by the ratepayers.

**VI. Settlement**

CAUSE-PA is willing and ready to engage in settlement discussions in an attempt to resolve or narrow the issues in this proceeding, with any and all parties, and encourages the parties to engage in settlement discussions early in the process.

**VII. Service on CAUSE-PA**

CAUSE-PA is represented by the attorneys at the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project. All documents should be served on CAUSE-PA as follows:

Ria M. Pereira, Esq.  
John W. Sweet, Esq.  
Lauren N. Berman, Esq.  
**PENNSYLVANIA UTILITY LAW PROJECT**  
118 Locust Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102  
Telephone: 717-236-9486  
Facsimile: 717-233-4088  
E-mail: [pulp@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:pulp@pautilitylawproject.org)

CAUSE-PA requests that parties agree to electronic service in this proceeding.

**VIII. Representation of CAUSE-PA at Prehearing Conference**

At the Prehearing Conference, CAUSE-PA will be represented by Ria M. Pereira, Esq.

**IX. Litigation Schedule**

CAUSE-PA is currently involved in discussions with the parties to reach a mutually agreeable litigation schedule. In the absence of a mutually agreed upon schedule between parties, CAUSE-PA proposes the following procedural schedule:

- Intervenor and Complainant Direct Testimony: June 11, 2024
- Rebuttal Testimony: July 10, 2024
- Surrebuttal Testimony: July 23, 2024
- Written Rejoinder: July 26, 2024
- Evidentiary Hearings (Telephonic): July 29-30, 2024

- All Parties' Main Briefs: August 16, 2024
- All Parties' Reply Briefs: August 26, 2024

WHEREFORE, CAUSE-PA respectfully submits this Prehearing Memorandum.

Respectfully submitted,  
**PENNSYLVANIA UTILITY LAW PROJECT**  
*Counsel for CAUSE-PA*



Ria M. Pereira, Esq., PA ID: 316771  
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**Certificate of Service**

I hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the **Prehearing Memorandum of the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania** upon the parties of record in the above captioned proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54.

**Via Email**

Honorable Mark A. Hoyer Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission 301 5th Avenue, Suite 220 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 <a href="mailto:mhoyer@pa.gov">mhoyer@pa.gov</a>	
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Respectfully Submitted,  
**PENNSYLVANIA UTILITY LAW PROJECT**  
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