



April 24, 2024

Via E-File

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

**Re: Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for Approval of a Default Service Program for the Period of June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2029
Docket No. P-2024-3047290**

Prehearing Memorandum of CAUSE-PA

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

Attached for filing, please find the **Prehearing Memorandum of the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA)** in the above referenced matter.

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

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



Elizabeth R. Marx, Esq.

CC: Per Certificate of Service

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for :
Approval of a Default Service Program for the : Docket No. P-2024-3047290
Period of June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2029 :

**Prehearing Memorandum of the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services
and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania**

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 in the captioned proceeding, pursuant to the April 16, 2024 Prehearing Conference Order of Administrative Law Judge F. Joseph Brady.

I. History of the Proceeding

On March 12, 2024, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL) filed a Petition for Approval of their Default Service Programs for the period commencing June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2029 (Petition). On March 14, 2024, CAUSE-PA filed a Petition to Intervene.

On April 16, Judge Brady issued a Prehearing Conference Order requiring parties to serve a Prehearing Conference Memorandum on or before Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., and setting a telephonic prehearing conference for Friday, April 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

II. Issues to be Addressed

While CAUSE-PA is still reviewing PPL’s Petition, it has tentatively identified the following issues presented by the filing which affect its members:

- a. The effect of PPL's proposed procurement strategy for residential consumers, and its adequacy in providing a stable, cost-effective default service option.
- b. The effect of PPL's proposal to continue its Standard Offer Referral Program, and its adequacy in preventing consumers from facing high costs after the 12-month program period.
- c. The effect of PPL's Time of Use proposal, and its adequacy in shield vulnerable consumers with inelastic energy needs from excessive energy pricing.
- d. The effect of PPL's mechanism to return customers to default service upon OnTrack enrollment and prohibit early termination fees on safeguarding low income customers from excessive pricing in the residential competitive electric market.
- e. Any additional issues that arise during litigation that may impact the accessibility, stability, and affordability of default service for low income consumers.

We assert that each of the forgoing matters must be thoroughly investigated to ensure that the Company's economically vulnerable customers are not harmed and any approved programs are in the public interest. CAUSE-PA anticipates that additional issues may arise as a more comprehensive review of the Company's filing is undertaken, discovery is conducted, and other parties present evidence and testimony.

CAUSE-PA reserves the right to present evidence on any issues contained in PPL's filing that were not otherwise specifically identified above, as well as those issues raised by other parties. Any and all evidence presented by CAUSE-PA will be directed so as to ensure that low-income customers are adequately protected in the continued provision of default 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 the Your Honor and the parties:

Harry S. Geller, Esquire
118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

hgeller@pautilitylawproject.org

Mr. Geller will address the issues identified above, as well as other relevant issues that may arise in the course of this proceeding.

IV. **Discovery**

CAUSE-PA is involved in discussions with the parties regarding mutually agreeable discovery modifications in this proceeding. Absent mutual agreement of the parties in advance of the Prehearing Conference, we note our support for the modifications that we understand will be proposed by the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) in its Prehearing Conference Memorandum.

V. **Settlement**

CAUSE-PA is ready and willing to work with the other parties to reach a full or partial settlement of the litigated issues and encourages parties to engage in settlement discussions early in the proceeding.

VI. **Public Input Hearings**

CAUSE-PA supports public input hearings in this proceeding.

VII. **Service on CAUSE-PA**

Service on CAUSE-PA by the parties to this proceeding may be made on its attorneys at the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project as follows:

Elizabeth R. Marx, Esquire
John Sweet, Esquire
Ria Pereira, Esq.
Lauren N. Berman, Esq.
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Telephone: 717-236-9486
E-mail: pulp@pautilitylawproject.org

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

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

CAUSE-PA will be represented by Elizabeth R. Marx, Esq. at the Prehearing Conference.

IX. **Litigation Schedule**

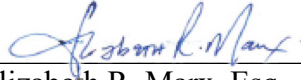
CAUSE-PA is actively working with the parties in an attempt to reach a mutually agreeable litigation schedule in this proceeding. In the absence of a mutually agreed upon schedule between parties in advance of the Prehearing Conference, CAUSE-PA proposes the following procedural schedule:

DSP VI Filing made- March 12, 2024
Prehearing Conference – April 26, 2024
Other Parties’ Direct – June 3
Rebuttal – July 1
Surrebuttal – July 15, noon
Rejoinder or rejoinder outlines – July 17, noon
Hearings – July 18-19
Main Briefs – August 13
Reply Briefs – August 27

This proposed schedule attempts to avoid multiple conflicts for the parties and with the litigation schedules established for several other large-scale proceedings that are also pending before the Commission. At the time of this filing, the above schedule was supported jointly by OCA and CAUSE-PA, though discussions about the schedule are ongoing.

WHEREFORE, CAUSE-PA respectfully submits the foregoing Prehearing Conference Memorandum for consideration in this proceeding.

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



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BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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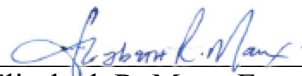
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify I have on this day served copies of the **Prehearing Memorandum of CAUSE-PA** in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a party).

Via Email

The Honorable F. Joseph Brady Administrative Law Judge 801 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19107 fbrady@pa.gov pmcneal@pa.gov	
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DATE: April 24, 2024