

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

**Paulos Ibrahim**

**v.**

**PPL Electric Utilities Corporation**

**Public Meeting May 23, 2024**

**3042066-ALJ**

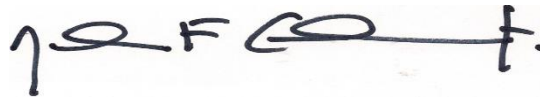
**Docket No. C-2023-3042066**

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.**

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) is the Initial Decision (ID) in the above-captioned Formal Complaint proceeding. The ID dismisses the Complaint because the Complainant failed to meet his burden of proof.

I agree with the ID that the Complainant did not establish a *prima facie* case of overbilling and therefore, he did not meet his burden of proof.<sup>1</sup> At the hearing, the Complainant offered only general statements about his household and that when he lived across the street from the service address, his electric bills were lower. The Complainant did not present any evidence about the size, insulation or energy efficiency of the service address or his previous townhouse. The Complainant also did not identify if his previous townhouse relied on electric baseboard heat as its sole heat source, as does the service address.

The Complainant's evidence regarding the alleged overbilling consisted only of unsupported assertions. These assertions, regardless of how honest or strong, cannot form the basis of a finding in his favor. Assertions, personal opinions or perceptions do not constitute factual evidence.<sup>2</sup> Even *pro se* complainants must provide relevant and necessary information. The Complainant in this case proceeded *pro se* by choice and bore the risk of doing so.<sup>3</sup> Since the Complainant did not establish a *prima facie* case at the time of the hearing, it follows that he failed to meet his burden of proof. Even if the Complainant had established a *prima facie* case, I find that PPL provided sufficient information to rebut the Complainant's testimony.<sup>4</sup> As such, the Formal Complaint was properly dismissed, and the ID should be adopted without modification.



**Date: May 23, 2024**

**JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.  
COMMISSIONER**

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<sup>1</sup> Section 332(a) of the Public Utility Code provides that a Complainant, as the party seeking affirmative relief from the Commission, has the burden of proof. 66 Pa.C.S. §332(a); *Samuel J. Lansberry, Inc. v. Pa. Pub. Util. Comm'n*, 578 A.2d 600 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1990).

<sup>2</sup> *Pennsylvania Bureau of Corrections v. City of Pittsburgh*, 532 A.2d 12 (Pa. 1987).

<sup>3</sup> *Groch v. Unemployment Comp. Bd. of Review*, 472 A.2d 286 (Pa. Cmwlth 1984); *Vann v. Unemployment Comp. Bd. of Review*, 494 A.2d 1081 (Pa. 1985).

<sup>4</sup> I do note that in high bill cases without comparative usage, it is helpful to know if the recorded usage is within the potential usage for the service address based on the heating system and other appliances.