

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Door to Door Cleaners	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2024-3049105
	:	
Duquesne Light Company	:	

**INTERIM ORDER
DIRECTING COMPLAINANT TO CLARIFY BUSINESS ORGANIZATION TYPE AND
TO CAUSE COUNSEL TO ENTER APPEARANCE IF REQUIRED**

On May 20, 2024, Door to Door Cleaners (Complainant)¹ filed a Formal Complaint (Complaint) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) against Duquesne Light Company (DLC, Company, or Respondent), alleging DLC was threatening to shut off or had already shut off service at 2511 Main Street, Pittsburgh, PA (service location) and requesting a payment arrangement.² The Complaint was filled out by Theresa Pizzonia, who is identified as the owner. As relief, Complainant requests a payment arrangement (PAR) that she can afford so she can stay in business, pay her bills, and pay what she owes to DLC. She notes she has struggled since Covid.

On June 10, 2024, DLC filed an Answer and New Matter to the Complaint. As an initial matter, DLC avers that while individuals can represent themselves *pro se* in Commission proceedings, individuals cannot represent other entities in adversarial proceedings. It argues that Door to Door Cleaners requires legal representation in this proceeding.

Respondent admits it sent Complainant a termination notice, but argues it was consistent with the Public Utility Code, the Commission’s regulations, and the Company’s

¹ The Complainant identifies itself as “Door to Door Cleaners/Theresa Pizzonia” in the Customer (Complainant) Information section of the Complaint Form. In the Commission’s online docket, the Complainant is listed only as “Door to Door Cleaners.”

² The Formal Complaint is an appeal of Bureau of Consumer Services (BCS) Decision No. 3980578.

Commission-approved tariff. DLC denies that the Complainant is entitled to the relief sought in the Formal Complaint, namely, a payment arrangement, because the Complainant has received, and failed to adhere to three Company payment agreements and one Commission-issued payment agreement.

In its New Matter, the Company argued that under the Commission’s rules, a company must have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania represent them in this proceeding.

On July 10, 2024, the Commission issued a Hearing Notice assigning this matter to me and scheduling an evidentiary hearing for September 3, 2024. The Hearing Notice reads, in pertinent part,

REPRESENTATION. If you are an individual, you may represent yourself or you may have an attorney represent you. All others, including a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, must be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*. Only an attorney may represent someone else.

See Hearing Notice, pg, 2.

On July 10, 2024, I issued a Prehearing Order, which reads, in pertinent part,

REPRESENTATION. If you are an individual, you may represent yourself or you may have an attorney represent you. All others, including a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, must be represented an attorney licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*. And, unless you are an attorney, you may not represent someone else.

See Prehearing Order, pg. 4 (citations omitted).

The Commission’s regulations provide that “[i]n adversarial proceedings, partnerships, corporations, trusts, associations, agencies, political subdivisions and government

entities shall be represented only by . . . an attorney.” 52 Pa. Code § 1.21. An adversarial proceeding begins with the filing of an Answer. 52 Pa. Code § 1.8; *New Fizon Catering, Inc. v. PECO Energy Company*, Docket Nos. C-2008-2065498 and C-2008- 2079076 (Order entered June 24, 2009).

When DLC filed its Answer, this matter became adversarial, and Door to Door Cleaners was required to obtain counsel *if it is in fact a partnership or corporation, or other entity listed in 52 Pa. Code § 1.21*. DLC does not specifically aver that it is, and it is unclear from the Complaint whether Door to Door Cleaners is a corporation or partnership or, alternatively, a business organization like a sole proprietorship, which does not need to be represented by counsel in adversarial proceedings under the Commission’s rules.

Therefore, the Complainant must clarify its business organization type, submit supporting documentation, and obtain counsel it is in fact required by the Commission’s rules to do so. DLC may also submit documentation evidencing the kind of business organization Door to Door Cleaners is, if it has any.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That, by **August 2, 2024**, Door to Door Cleaners shall file with the Commission’s Secretary’s Bureau correspondence clarifying what type of business organization it is along with supporting documentation.

2. That, by **August 2, 2024**, Duquesne Light Company may file correspondence with the Commission’s Secretary’s Bureau clarifying what type of business organization Door to Door Cleaners is along with supporting documentation, if any.

3. That, by **August 16, 2024**, Door to Door Cleaners shall cause its counsel to enter his or her appearance in accordance with the provisions of 52 Pa.Code § 1.24(b), if it is in fact required to do so by the Commission's rules.

4. That the evidentiary hearing scheduled to be held on **September 3, 2024**, shall proceed as scheduled.

Date: July 12, 2024

/s/
Emily I. DeVoe
Administrative Law Judge

C-2024-3049105 - DOOR TO DOOR CLEANERS v. DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY

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