

# OAKLAND BOROUGH

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Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
CC: Representative Jonathon Fritz, Senator Lisa Baker

6/20/2024

**Subject:** Urgent Appeal to Thoroughly Investigate Proposed Rate Increases by FirstEnergy for Penelec Rate District

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Oakland Borough Council, are writing on behalf of our community to express our grave concerns regarding the proposed rate increase by FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Electric Company for the Penelec Rate District. As detailed in the proposal, FirstEnergy is seeking a revenue increase of \$132,963,000 (28%), which would raise the average monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kWh from \$200.96 to \$220.75, a 9.8% increase.

Our residents are already facing significant financial strain due to previous rate hikes and the overall rising cost of living. Many families and individuals in our borough are struggling to make ends meet, and an additional increase in electric rates would exacerbate these difficulties. It is imperative that the PUC thoroughly investigate this proposal to ensure that it is justified and that the financial burden on our community is minimized.

Furthermore, it is important to note that the Oakland Borough has a history of frequent power outages throughout the year. These outages disrupt daily life, affect businesses, and in some cases, pose risks to the health and safety of our residents. The reliability of electric service in our area has been a persistent issue, and we urge the PUC to consider the quality and consistency of service provided by FirstEnergy in its evaluation of the rate increase request.

We believe that any consideration of rate increases should be balanced with the performance and reliability of the service provided. Our community deserves not only fair pricing but also dependable electric service. The proposed increase, without a corresponding improvement in service reliability, is untenable for our residents.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your thorough investigation and a decision that considers the best interests of the residents of Oakland Borough and the broader Penelec Rate District.

Sincerely,

*Randy Glover, Mayor Valerie Senese, President, Robert Muiteer, Vice President,*

*Councilmembers: William Deakin, Brad Krayeski, Patrick Gall, Teena Gall, Debra White*