

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

William Kowalski Jr.	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2024-3049830
	:	
PPL Electric Utilities Corporation	:	

William Kowalski Jr.	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2024-3050487
	:	
PPL Electric Utilities Corporation	:	

ORDER
GRANTING MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

On June 28, 2024, William Kowalski Jr. (Mr. Kowalski or Complainant) filed a Formal Complaint against PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL or Company) regarding his PPL account ending in 7016. The Formal Complaint was served on PPL on July 1, 2024 and docketed at C-2024-3049830. In his Complaint, Mr. Kowalski states that he has a payment agreement with PPL and he requests an extension to make a payment from July 1, 2024 until July 6, 2024. Mr. Kowalski states that he has been unable to speak with PPL regarding his requested extension and he has been current and paid timely on his agreement with PPL.

On July 22, 2024, PPL filed an answer to Mr. Kowalski's Formal Complaint at Docket No. C-2024-3049830. In its answer, PPL admits that Mr. Kowalski entered into a payment agreement with the Company to resolve a previously filed formal complaint. PPL denies that Complainant has been current on the payment agreement or that he has spoken with a customer service representative of PPL to request an extension.

On August 5, 2024, the Commission issued an initial telephonic hearing notice setting a call-in telephonic hearing for this matter for October 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. In anticipation of that hearing, I issued a prehearing order on August 6, 2024, setting forth various rules that would govern the October 11, 2024 hearing.

On July 31, 2024, Mr. Kowalski filed a Formal Complaint against PPL regarding his PPL account ending in 7016. The Formal Complaint was served on PPL on August 1, 2024 and docketed at C-2024-3050487. In his Complaint, Mr. Kowalski states that he has a payment agreement with PPL and he tried contacting the Company numerous times. Mr. Kowalski also states that he recently lost his job and he requests that a representative of PPL contact him regarding a new payment agreement.

On August 21, 2024, PPL filed an answer to Mr. Kowalski's Formal Complaint at Docket No. C-2024-3050487. In its answer, PPL admits that Mr. Kowalski entered into a payment agreement with the Company to resolve a previously filed formal complaint. PPL denies that it has not provided the Complainant with reasonable customer service or that the Complainant has contacted the Company during normal business hours to request a new payment agreement.

Also on August 21, 2024, PPL filed a motion to consolidate the proceedings at Docket Nos. C-2024-3049830 and C-2024-3050487. PPL's motion included a notice to plead. PPL's motion averred that the Formal Complaints at both dockets involve electric service to the same account and address and raise issues including difficulty paying under the existing payment agreement and a desire for a new payment agreement. Therefore, in the interests of administrative efficiency and judicial economy, the Company requests that the dockets be consolidated. Additionally, PPL indicated that the Complainant does not oppose the Company's request for consolidation. No response has been received to PPL's motion.

On August 21, 2024, the Commission issued a motion judge assignment at Docket No. C-2024-3050487, assigning me to decide PPL's motion to consolidate.

Section 5.81 of the Commission's rules governs consolidation of proceedings. This Section provides:

§ 5.81. Consolidation.

(a) The Commission or presiding officer, with or without motion, may order proceedings involving a common question of law or fact to be consolidated. The Commission or presiding officer may make orders concerning the conduct of the proceeding as may avoid unnecessary costs or delay.

52 Pa.Code § 5.81.

Both Docket Nos. C-2024-3049830 and C-2024-3050487 contain common questions of fact and law. Specifically, the Formal Complaints include the same complainant, same PPL account, and similar allegations that Complainant is having difficulty contacting PPL regarding his existing payment agreement or a new payment agreement. Both Formal Complaints also request similar relief in either modifying his existing payment agreement or providing a new payment agreement. Therefore, I agree with PPL that the proceedings at Docket Nos. C-2024-3049830 and C-2024-3050487 should be consolidated for purposes of discovery, hearing, and adjudication because it would be inefficient and duplicative to hold two separate proceedings regarding Mr. Kowalski's Formal Complaints. Therefore, a telephonic evidentiary hearing for the Formal Complaint at Docket No. C-2024-3050487 will be scheduled for the same time as the currently scheduled evidentiary hearing for the Formal Complaint at C-2024-3049830, i.e., October 11, 2024 at 10 a.m. An updated telephonic hearing notice and an updated prehearing order will be issued along with this order, reflecting that the dockets at C-2024-3049830 and C-2024-3050487 have been consolidated.

In the interim, the parties are reminded that Commission policy promotes settlements. 52 Pa. Code §5.231(a). The parties are encouraged to commence settlement discussions amongst themselves for this proceeding as early as possible. Even if the parties are unable to settle this case, they may still resolve some of the questions or issues during their discussions. If the parties reach an agreement on all issues, a formal hearing will not be

necessary. The parties are also reminded that the presiding officer may participate in settlement discussions upon agreement of all parties. 52 Pa.Code § 5.223(c); *see also*, 52 Pa.Code § 5.231(c).

ORDER

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Motion to Consolidate Complaint Proceedings filed by PPL Electric Utilities Corporation at Docket Nos. C-2024-3049830 and C-2024-3050487 is granted;
2. That the proceedings at Docket Numbers C-2024-3049830 and C-2024-3050487 are consolidated.

Date: September 11, 2024

_____/s/
John M. Coogan
Administrative Law Judge

C-2024-3049830; C-2024-3050487 - WILLIAM KOWALSKI JR v. PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

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