

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

David Bocsy	:	
	:	
v.	:	F-2024-3048366
	:	
Duquesne Light Company	:	

**INTERIM ORDER
GRANTING SECOND CONTINUANCE**

On April 10, 2024, David Bocsy (Complainant) filed a formal complaint against Duquesne Light Company. The Complainant alleged that there were incorrect charges on his bill because the house was vacant, therefore the bill should only reflect a monthly service charge. The Complainant also noted that electric service was terminated for “false safety reasons.”

Duquesne Light filed an answer on May 2, 2024, which denied the material allegations of the complaint and stated that the Complainant was correctly billed for service and that service was properly terminated due to an unsafe condition at the meter.

By interim order dated May 10, 2024, Chief Administrative Law Judge Charles E. Rainey, Jr. directed the Parties to attempt to resolve their dispute with the assistance of a mediator. The Parties did not resolve their dispute in mediation and by notice dated June 20, 2024, the matter was assigned to me and scheduled for a hearing on August 8, 2024. I issued a prehearing order on June 20, 2024, which explained the procedures for the conduct of the hearing.

The hearing convened as scheduled. Megan E. Rulli, Esquire appeared along with three witnesses on behalf of Duquesne Light. The Complainant did not appear. Ms. Rulli moved that the complaint be dismissed due to the Complainant’s failure to appear. I took the motion under advisement.

On August 9, 2024, the Complainant contacted my office and requested that the hearing be rescheduled as an in-person hearing. He claimed that he had not received the hearing notice and that he thought he would be contacted. In an abundance of caution, I granted the request for a continuance and rescheduled the hearing as an in-person hearing for September 25, 2024.

On August 13, 2024, a further hearing notice was mailed to the Complainant and served on Duquesne Light. A prehearing order was also served on August 13, 2024.

On September 24, 2024, the Complainant contacted my office claiming that he was in the hospital and requested that the September 25, 2024, hearing be rescheduled. Counsel for Duquesne Light agreed to the continuance but noted that this is the second continuance request by the Complainant and that Duquesne Light was unlikely to agree to any further continuances. Duquesne Light also requested that the rescheduled hearing be conducted by telephone.

Continuances have been previously granted. The Complainant is not entitled to never-ending continuances. *See Steadwell, v. Unemployment Comp. Bd. of Rev.*, 463 A.2d 1298 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1983). Importantly, it is in the public interest that a contested proceeding be addressed expeditiously. *See also In re Estate of Hartman*, 582 A.2d 648 (Pa. Super. 1990). However, I will grant one last continuance as set forth in the ordering paragraphs below. The Complaint is on notice, that any further requests for a continuance must for an emergency and must be verified by third-party documentation.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Parties shall confer and agree on at least three alternative hearing dates when both the Parties and their witnesses are available for hearing. The Parties shall also discuss whether the hearing shall be conducted by telephone or in-person.

2. That Duquesne Light shall file a Joint Status report on or before **October 15, 2024**, which reports the hearing dates agreed upon by the Parties.

3. That in the event the Parties can not agree on a telephonic or in-person hearing, the Complainant shall file a written request for an in-person hearing and include a reason for the request on or before **October 15, 2024**.

4. That failure to file either a Joint Status report or a written request for an in-person hearing as directed above will result in a hearing by telephone scheduled for an available date.

5. That no further continuances or extensions will be granted absent emergency circumstances that are verified by a third party.

Date: September 24, 2024

/s/
Mary D. Long
Administrative Law Judge

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