

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

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY
COMMISSION, *et al.***

**PUBLIC MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2024
3046523-ALJ
DOCKET NO. R-2024-3046523, *et al.***

v.

DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN STEPHEN M. DeFRANK

Today, the Commission considers adoption of a Joint Petition for Approval of Settlement (Settlement) of a general rate increase filed by Duquesne Light Company (Duquesne). The originally requested total increase in electric distribution rates was approximately \$133 million. The proposed Settlement provides for distribution rates designed to produce increased revenues of \$85 million. Both the original request and the agreed upon amount include \$32 million of revenues currently recovered under surcharges. Therefore, the net increase in revenues in the Settlement is \$53 million.

I write separately today to thank the parties for their efforts in settling this matter and to highlight certain provisions.

In particular, I note the extensive provisions agreed to by the Parties regarding Duquesne's universal service programs. Among other things, Duquesne will increase its maximum CAP credit thresholds. Also, the Settlement increases the maximum Hardship Fund grant levels from \$500 to \$600 and increases the shareholder contribution to the Hardship Fund to \$350,000 for the next three years. There are also provisions that improve Duquesne's Low Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP), including increasing the existing Smart Comfort LIURP budget by \$300,000 per year. These provisions will help Duquesne's low-income customers who will be impacted the most by the increase in rates and are in the public interest.

Furthermore, I note the multiple provisions in the Settlement regarding transportation electrification, load management, and building electrification. These include adding an additional \$500,000 to the annual Make Ready Construction Pathway budget; adopting a whole home EV Time of Use proposal; adoption of a Managed Home Charging Pilot; inclusion of Awareness, Education and Engagement activities; addition of an Electric Fleet Advisory Service program; and, adoption of an EV Registration Incentive program.

These provisions represent a reasonable compromise of the Parties' positions in this matter and are in the public interest. Therefore, when viewed as a whole, I support the adoption of the Settlement.

November 7, 2024

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stephen M. DeFrank", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen M. DeFrank

Chairman