

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Aisulu Oruzbaeva	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2020-3023497
	:	
PPL Electric Utilities Corporation	:	

**CONTINUANCE ORDER**

On December 14, 2020, Aisulu Oruzbaeva (Ms. Oruzbaeva or Complainant) filed a Formal Complaint against PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL). The Formal Complaint was served on PPL on December 31, 2020. Ms. Oruzbaeva alleged that the smart meter installed by PPL pollutes her property with high levels of microwave radiation and dirty electricity. Ms. Oruzbaeva asserts that this type of pollution exacerbates a disability that she has and interferes with major daily life activities. As relief, Ms. Oruzbaeva requests that PPL substitute the smart meter with an analog meter.

On January 20, 2021, PPL filed an answer to the Formal Complaint. In the answer, PPL admitted that it installed a new automated metering infrastructure (AMI) meter at Complainant's service address. PPL denied that the AMI meter poses any health hazards. PPL states that it was legally required to install the new AMI meter by the Public Utility Code, the Commission's orders, and the Company's Commission approved Smart Meter Plan.

Additionally, PPL asserted that nothing in the Public Utility Code, the Commission's orders and regulations, or PPL Electric's Smart Meter Plan states that a customer can opt-out of a smart meter installation.

On January 27, 2021, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Elizabeth H. Barnes issued an order advising the parties that this matter was stayed until further direction by the Commission.<sup>1</sup>

On June 13, 2022, the Commission issued a Judge Change Notice, changing the ALJ in this proceeding from ALJ Barnes to ALJ Charece Z. Collins.

By order entered November 14, 2023, the Commission lifted the general stay of smart meter proceedings and directed the Office of Administrative Law Judge to proceed with pending formal complaint proceedings as directed by the presiding ALJ.

On August 26, 2024, the Commission issued a Judge Change Notice, changing the ALJ in this proceeding from ALJ Collins to the undersigned.

On August 28, 2024, the Commission issued a telephonic prehearing conference notice setting a call-in telephonic prehearing conference for this matter for October 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. In anticipation of that prehearing conference, I issued a prehearing conference order on September 3, 2024 setting forth various rules that would govern the October 9, 2024 prehearing conference.

The October 9, 2024 prehearing conference was held as scheduled. Ms. Oruzbaeva appeared. Counsel for PPL did not appear. At the beginning of the hearing, Ms. Oruzbaeva requested a continuance of the prehearing conference because she was currently in Florida and was impacted by the ongoing Hurricane Milton. I granted Ms. Oruzbaeva's request during the hearing and adjourned the hearing. An order granting the continuance and rescheduling the prehearing conference to November 13, 2024, was issued on October 16, 2024.

The November 13, 2024 prehearing conference was held as scheduled. Ms. Oruzbaeva appeared. Counsel for PPL also appeared. During the prehearing conference, Ms.

---

<sup>1</sup> By Order entered November 4, 2020, the Commission ordered that any formal complaint filed with the Commission on or after November 4, 2020, challenging an electric distribution company's deployment of smart meter technology as being in violation of 66 Pa.C.S. § 1501 is to be stayed until the Commission takes further action to lift the stay. *See, Smart Meter Procurement and Installation*, Docket No. M-2009-2092655 (Order entered November 4, 2020).

Oruzbaeva indicated she no longer resided or held any interest in the service address that was the subject of her Formal Complaint. Counsel for PPL indicated that PPL would file a motion regarding the issue of Ms. Oruzbaeva no longer residing or holding any interest in the service address that was the subject of her Formal Complaint. I continued the prehearing conference and ordered PPL to file a motion within 20 days of the November 13, 2024 prehearing conference. I also indicated that Ms. Oruzbaeva would have 20 days from the date of filing of the motion to respond. Section 5.483 of the Commission's regulations provides presiding officers with the authority to regulate the course of proceedings. 52 Pa.Code § 5.483(a). Presiding officers are required to conduct fair and impartial hearings and maintain order. 52 Pa.Code § 5.485(a). Furthermore, the Commission's regulations are to be liberally construed to secure the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of every action or proceeding and the presiding officer may, at any stage, disregard an error or defect of procedure which does not affect the substantive rights of parties. 52 Pa.Code § 1.2(a). The purpose of this order is to memorialize the directions provided at the November 13, 2024 prehearing conference.

In the interim, the parties are encouraged to pursue settlement discussions. Commission policy promotes settlements. 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).

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the November 13, 2024 prehearing conference is continued;
2. That PPL Electric Utilities Corporation shall file a motion addressing issues raised at the November 13, 2024 prehearing conference by no later than December 3, 2024;

3. That Aisulu Oruzbaeva shall file a response to any motion filed by PPL Electric Utilities Corporation within 20 days of service of the above-described motion; and

4. That the parties are encouraged to engage in settlement discussions.

Date: November 14, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
John M. Coogan  
Administrative Law Judge

**C-2020-3023497 - AISULU ORUZBAEVA v. PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES CORPORATION**

*Revised: November 14, 2024*

AISULU ORUZBAEVA  
525 CHIEF TATAMY STREET  
EASTON PA 18045  
**610.438.1692**

[aika33@gmail.com](mailto:aika33@gmail.com)

Served via email and via USPS first-class mail

DEVIN T RYAN ESQUIRE  
GARRETT P LENT ESQUIRE  
NICHOLAS A STOBBE ESQUIRE  
POST AND SCHELL  
17 NORTH 2ND STREET  
12TH FLOOR  
HARRISBURG PA 17101-1601  
**717.612.6052**  
**717.612.6032**  
**717.612.6033**

[dryan@postschell.com](mailto:dryan@postschell.com)

[glent@postschell.com](mailto:glent@postschell.com)

[nstobbe@postschell.com](mailto:nstobbe@postschell.com)

Accepts eService

*(Counsel for PPL Electric Utilities Corporation)*

CURTIS S RENNER ESQUIRE  
WATSON & RENNER  
1910 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW  
SUITE 1005 - ENS  
WASHINGTON DC 20008  
**703.2033613**

[crenner@w-r.com](mailto:crenner@w-r.com)

Accepts eService

*(Counsel for PPL Electric Utilities Corporation)*