

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

**Petition of Duquesne Light Company for
Approval of its Default Service Plan for the
Period from June 1, 2025, through May 31,
2029**

**Public Meeting of December 5, 2024
3048592-ALJ
Docket No. P-2024-3048592**

MOTION OF CHAIRMAN STEPHEN M. DeFRANK

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) is the Recommended Decision of Administrative Law Judges Mary D. Long and John M. Coogan, issued on October 31, 2024, which approves a Joint Petition for Approval of Settlement (Settlement) filed by Duquesne Light Company (Duquesne Light or the Company), the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), the Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA), and the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA) in the proceeding regarding the Company's petition for approval of its tenth Default Service Plan (DSP).

Duquesne Light filed a petition for approval of its DSP on April 19, 2024. The proposed plan would run from June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2029. OCA, OSBA and CAUSE-PA intervened in the docket, as did Calpine Retail Holdings, LLC (Calpine); Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. and Constellation Energy Generation, LLC (collectively, Constellation); NRG Energy Inc. (NRG); and the Retail Energy Supply Association (RESA). While only OCA, OSBA, and CAUSE-PA are parties to the Settlement, the remaining parties did not oppose it.

The DSP provides for the acquisition of electric generation for default service customers in the service territory, in addition to detailing other characteristics of that service. Beyond the basic energy acquisition schedule, other positive elements in the Settlement include an optional extension for Duquesne Light to finalize a power purchase agreement with a solar developer to provide power and alternative energy credits for a portion of its default service load.

Overall, the parties to this case are to be commended for reaching mutually amicable terms to resolve the disputed issues. However, I find that one element of the DSP can be improved by Duquesne Light.

Time-of-use (TOU) rates have not been widely utilized by electric distribution companies (EDCs) in the past and very few customers throughout the state have enrolled in these programs. The Commission-approved DSP currently in effect for Duquesne includes a TOU pilot program available for customers with electric vehicles and their own charging equipment.

In the current environment, however, I think renewed attention on time-of-use rates is warranted. Default service prices are rising and concerns about resource adequacy have been

raised by utilities and policymakers alike. Given those realities, I believe it is important to use any and all tools available to help customers control their costs. Additionally, TOUs can help EDCs manage their systems as efficiently as possible. With that in mind, I believe it is important for utilities to refocus their efforts on making TOU rates more accessible to customers.

In the DSP before us today, Duquesne Light has proposed a pilot time-of-use rate that is available to customers who have an electric vehicle and would only apply to usage attributable to EV charging. While the current pilot TOU rate in Duquesne's DSP was deemed reasonable at the time of its approval, I find that the current energy landscape necessitates more fully utilizing Duquesne's advanced smart meter infrastructure to the maximum benefit of customers.

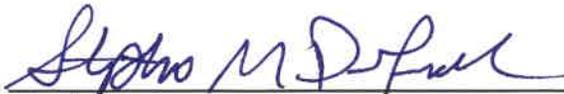
In this case, I believe that Duquesne Light should prepare a supplemental filing that would establish a TOU rate available to all residential and small commercial default service customers with a smart meter. Outside the confines of this case, I would also like to see the other electric utilities refocus their efforts to increase awareness of time-of-use rates and ensure that customers understand them and are able to make informed decisions about whether those rates may benefit them.

As this Settlement is reasonable and in the public interest, I do not want to modify it. I believe that Duquesne's supplemental filing of a TOU rate can be considered separately on an expedited schedule. Ideally, the new TOU rate could be considered and approved in time to go into effect on June 1, 2025, with the rest of the DSP.

THEREFORE, I MOVE:

1. The Recommended Decision of Administrative Law Judges Mary D. Long and John M. Coogan be adopted.
2. That within sixty (60) days, Duquesne Light Company shall make a supplementary filing proposing a time-of-use rate that is available to all residential and small commercial default service customers with smart meters.
3. That, should any party take an adverse position to the supplemental filing, the Office of Administrative Law Judge utilize an expedited hearing schedule to consider the filing made by Duquesne Light Company.
4. That the Office of Special Assistants prepare an Opinion and Order consistent with this Motion.

December 5, 2024
Date



Stephen M. DeFrank
Chairman