

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

SolarStone Development, LLC	:	C-2025-3053439
	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
	:	
PPL Electric Utilities Corporation	:	

**INTERIM ORDER  
HOLDING PETITION TO WITHDRAW COMPLAINT IN ABEYANCE**

On February 15, 2025, SolarStone Development, LLC (Complainant or SolarStone) filed a Petition for Interim Emergency Relief with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 3.6. This filing was docketed at P-2025-3053446.

Also on February 15, 2025, SolarStone filed a Formal Complaint (Complaint) against PPL Electric Utilities Corporation which was docketed at C-2025-3053446. In the Complaint, SolarStone alleged that PPL adopted a new customer-generator interconnection application process without first receiving Commission approval and that the new process is unreasonable and in violation of 66 Pa.C.S. §§ 1301 and 1501, as well as Commission regulations. As relief, SolarStone asked the Commission to direct PPL to: (1) “cease and desist, permanently, from demanding or imposing non-refundable deposit requirements on customer generators seeking to develop renewable energy projects in its service territory”; (2) “cease or not implement its new policy of encumbering deposits with purchases of equipment that are not based on the detailed engineering study that PPL is required to perform”; and (3) “maintain the pre-complaint queue position of Solar Stone’s Mt. Carmel Solar LLC project and not encumber any deposit made for that project by making expenditures against the deposit before it is necessary and any other relief necessary to implement the above.” Complaint, p. 9.

On February 24, 2025, a Telephonic Emergency Hearing Notice was issued scheduling an initial telephonic emergency hearing for Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

The emergency evidentiary hearing convened on February 27, 2025, as scheduled. SolarStone was represented by Todd S. Stewart, Esquire. PPL was represented by Devin T. Ryan, Esquire. Both parties presented testimony and exhibits.

A 102-page expedited transcript was filed on February 24, 2025.

I also received a Memorandum of Law (MOL) from both parties on March 4, 2025.

On March 5, 2025, I issued an Emergency Order denying SolarStone's request for emergency relief and certifying a material question to the Commission.

On March 19, 2025, the Commission issued an Order and Opinion, denying SolarStone's Petition for Emergency Relief and referring the matter back to the Office of Administrative Law Judge (OALJ) for further proceedings.

On March 10, 2025, PPL filed an Answer to the Complaint.

On April 8, 2025, the Commission issued a Notice scheduling a prehearing conference for April 22, 2025.

On April 9, 2025, I issued a Prehearing Conference Order.

On April 14, 2025, SolarStone filed a Petition to Withdraw its Complaint, averring that, as a consequence of the Commission's Order Denying Emergency Relief, SolarStone determined the project is not viable due to the "substantial risk imposed by PPL's new process." Complainant argues that because the project is not viable and must be withdrawn, there is nothing to be gained in litigating an issue that presumably will be resolved in another

ongoing proceeding, *TotalEnergies Distributed Generation USA, LLC v. PPL Elec. Utils., Inc.*, Docket No. P-2024-3051440 (*TotalEnergies*). SolarStone submits it has no desire to expend its resources or those of the Commission in pursuing the Complaint and requests that it be permitted to withdraw its Complaint.

PPL did not file a response to the Petition to Withdraw.

On April 18, 2025, the Commission issued a Notice cancelling the prehearing conference.

### DISCUSSION

The Commission's rules provide that a party in a contested proceeding may file for leave to withdraw a pleading with the Commission and serve it upon the other parties. 52 Pa. Code § 5.94(a). Any objection to the petition must be filed within ten days of service. *Id.*

After considering the petition, any objection thereto, and the public interest, the presiding officer or the Commission will determine whether the withdrawal will be permitted. *Id.*

In the Complaint, SolarStone alleges, *inter alia*, PPL unilaterally modified its processes for review and approval of net metering customer generator applications and interconnection requests in violation of the specific requirements of the Commission's regulations. Complaint, p.1. SolarStone submits PPL does not review customer generator applications within the required timeframes, nor does it send them for Commission approval in accordance with established and required procedures. Instead, PPL performs a high-level review of a project known as an Interconnection Impact Review (IIR) first and requires that customer-generators sign their form titled "Notice of Customer Intent" which obligates the customer-generator to pay substantial deposits before PPL will submit completed customer generator applications to the Commission for approval. *Id.* SolarStone maintains PPL neither sought nor received Commission approval for these changes in violation of the Commission's regulations.

Finally, SolarStone argues PPL refused to make any modification to its “Notice of Customer Intent” document to account for the possibility that changes in law that would make the projects nonviable. *Id.*

Either PPL has violated the Commission’s regulations or it has not. If it has, this is a very serious issue. I can only grant the Petition to Withdraw if I find it is in the public interest to do so. The Complaint raises issues that warrant resolution from the Commission. At this point, due to the seriousness of the allegations raised in the Complaint, I cannot find that it is in the public interest to grant the withdrawal.

There is a similar case currently pending before the Commission, *TotalEnergies Distributed Generation USA, LLC v. PPL Elec. Utils., Inc.*, at Docket No. C-2024-3051475 (*TotalEnergies*). In *TotalEnergies*, the complaint is substantially similar to that filed by SolarStone.<sup>1</sup> Like SolarStone, TotalEnergies is challenging PPL’s process for handling customer generator applications, alleging PPL has violated the Commission’s regulations.

An evidentiary hearing was held in *TotalEnergies* on April 29, 2025. Both TotalEnergies and PPL provided testimony, and PPL offered exhibits, which were admitted into the record. Main briefs are due by May 29, 2025, and reply briefs are due by June 11, 2025.

At this time, I am going to hold SolarStone’s Petition to Withdraw in abeyance, pending a final Commission order in the *TotalEnergies* matter at Docket No. C-2024-3051475. After the Commission has issued a final order in the *TotalEnergies* matter, I will consider whether the Commission has sufficiently resolved the issues raised in SolarStone’s Complaint such that it would then be in the public interest to grant SolarStone’s Petition to Withdraw its Complaint.

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<sup>1</sup> SolarStone and TotalEnergies are represented by the same counsel.



**C-2025-3053439- SOLARSTONE DEVELOPMENT LLC v. PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES CORPORATION**

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