

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Martin Gallas	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2024-3049469
	:	
FirstEnergy Pennsylvania f/k/a Met-Ed	:	

**INTERIM ORDER GRANTING COMPLAINANT'S
REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE**

By Initial Call-In Telephonic Hearing Notice dated August 20, 2024, an Initial Call-In Telephonic Hearing was scheduled for October 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

I issued a Prehearing Order on August 22 2024. The Prehearing Order directed the parties to comply with various procedural requirements and directed that a request to change the scheduled hearing should be sent to me at least five days prior to the hearing date, be in writing and state the agreement or opposition of the other party.

By email received on September 30, 2024, Margaret A. Morris, Esq., Counsel for Respondent, requested a continuance of the October 8, 2024 hearing on the Complainant's behalf, indicating that the Complainant had a conflicting medical appointment. Ms. Morris advised that the Respondent did not oppose the requested continuance. Based on the stated reason for the request and that it was unopposed, I granted the request.

By Cancelled/Rescheduled Initial Telephonic Hearing Notice dated October 1, 2024, the Initial Call-In Telephonic Hearing was rescheduled for December 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

By email received on November 6, 2024, the Complainant requested a continuance of the December 3, 2024 hearing due to a previously scheduled trip. The Complainant attached a copy of a receipt dated September 27, 2024 for a seven-day trip with a

December 1, 2024 departure date. The Complainant also advised that the Respondent did not oppose his request for continuance.

By Interim Order dated November 7, 2024, I granted the Complainant's second request for continuance.

By Cancelled/Rescheduled Initial Telephonic Hearing Notice dated November 12, 2024, the December 3, 2024 Initial Call-In Telephonic Hearing was rescheduled for January 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

I issued a second Prehearing Order on November 21, 2024. The Prehearing Order again directed the parties to comply with various procedural requirements and directed that a request to change the scheduled hearing should be sent to me at least five days prior to the hearing date, be in writing and state the agreement or opposition of the other party.

I issued a Corrected Prehearing Order on December 9, 2024. The Corrected Prehearing Order advised the parties that my legal assistant changed from Shalea Delvillar to Pamela McNeal. The Corrected Prehearing Order again directed the parties to comply with various procedural requirements and directed that a request to change the scheduled hearing should be sent to me at least five days prior to the hearing date, be in writing and state the agreement or opposition of the other party.

The January 13, 2025 hearing convened as scheduled. The Complainant appeared *Pro Se* and testified. The Respondent appeared and was represented by Ms. Morris. Ms. Morris had two witnesses available to testify.

During the hearing the Complainant raised concerns that he did not supply all of the bills that he wanted to supply for consideration during the hearing. To accommodate the Complainant, I agreed to reconvene the hearing at a later date to afford him an opportunity to present the bills that he received between June 2021 and June 2024 that he believes he should have supplied for the hearing. Tr. 41-42. The Complainant, who had already supplied Exhibits

C-1, C-2, and C-3, was instructed to provide these bills in chronological order, paginated, and pre-marked as “C-4.” Tr. 42-43. The Complainant was further directed to provide a redacted and an unredacted copy of his exhibits. Tr. 47.

By Further Call-In Telephone Hearing Notice dated January 14, 2025, a further call-in telephonic hearing was scheduled for February 25, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

By email received on February 18, 2025, the Complainant requested another continuance in this matter. The Complainant indicated that the reason for his request was his confusion regarding instructions for preparation/submission of exhibits from the January 13, 2025 hearing.

By Interim Order dated February 19, 2025, I denied the Complainant’s third request for continuance.

The February 25, 2025 evidentiary hearing took place as scheduled. Both the Complainant and Respondent appeared and participated in the hearing. Although the Complainant finished presenting his case during the February 25, 2025 hearing, the hearing had to be rescheduled due to the unavailability of the Respondent’s witness in the afternoon.

By Further Call-In Telephone Hearing Notice dated February 27, 2025, a further call-in telephonic hearing was scheduled for April 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

The April 22, 2025 evidentiary hearing took place as scheduled. Both the Complainant and the Respondent appeared and participated in the hearing. It became evident that completing the Complainant’s cross-examination of Respondent’s witness would be problematic by phone, so I advised the parties that the remainder of the hearing would have to be rescheduled as an in-person hearing. Prior to adjourning the hearing, both parties confirmed that they would be available for the rescheduled hearing on July 8, 2025.

By Further In-Person Hearing Notice dated April 23, 2025, a further in-person hearing was scheduled to be held in Philadelphia on July 8, 2025.

I issued a Prehearing Order For In-Person Hearing on May 8, 2025. The Prehearing Order again directed the parties to comply with various procedural requirements and directed that a request to change the scheduled hearing should be sent to me, via legal assistant Eric Ball, at least five days prior to the hearing date, be in writing and state the agreement or opposition of the other party.

By email received on June 30, 2025, the Complainant requested a continuance of the July 8, 2025, hearing. In support of his request, the Complainant advised that the reason for his request was “due to healthcare scheduling that has fallen on me for myself and my brother.” The Complainant provided a lengthy explanation of the scheduling conflict caused by his and his brother’s healthcare appointments. Although the Complainant did not provide First Energy’s position regarding his continuance request as required by my Prehearing Orders, Ms. Morris submitted an email advising that the Company takes no position on the requested continuance.

Paragraph 3 of my August 22, 2024, November 21, 2024, December 9, 2024, and May 8, 2025, Prehearing Orders advised the parties that they may request a continuance of the hearing if they have a good reason. My Prehearing Orders further advised that “[t]o request a continuance, you must submit a written request (a “motion”) at least five (5) days before the hearing.” My Order further instructed that the motion should include: the case name, case number, and hearing date; the reason you are requesting a continuance; and the other party’s position on the request.

Prior to the conclusion of the April 22, 2025 hearing, the parties confirmed that they would be available for a rescheduled in-person hearing on July 8, 2025. Even with the parties’ confirmation, the Complainant submitted a request for another hearing continuance due to his unavailability on the scheduled hearing date. In consideration of the Complainant’s stated reason for the continuance request, and also because the Company has not taken a position on the Complainant’s latest request for a continuance, I will grant the Complainant’s June 30, 2025,

continuance request. The hearing will be rescheduled. If either party has a scheduling conflict with the rescheduled hearing date, they must inform my legal assistant, Eric Ball,¹ immediately upon receipt of the hearing scheduling notice. Otherwise, the parties will be expected to ensure their availability and attendance at the rescheduled in-person hearing.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Complainant's June 30, 2025 request for continuance of the hearing in the matter captioned as Martin Gallas v. FirstEnergy Pennsylvania f/k/a Met-Ed at Docket No. C-2024-3049469 is granted.
2. That the hearing scheduled for July 8, 2025 is cancelled.
3. That the scheduling staff of the Office of Administrative Law Judge shall reschedule this matter for an in-person hearing and notify the parties in writing.

Date: July 1, 2025

/s/
Christopher P. Pell
Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge

¹ Mr. Ball's email address is erball@pa.gov.

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