

July 15, 2025

Via E-Filing

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for Approval of its Second Distributed Energy Resources Management Plan, Docket No. P-2024-3049223

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Please find attached for filing a corrected version of an Exceptions Brief filed 20 minutes ago, along with a certificate of service showing that the Joint Solar Parties' ("JSPs") served today on the persons on the formal and the parties' informal service list their Exceptions to the Recommended Decision, dated June 30, 2025, in the above-referenced proceeding.

Please substitute this corrected version for the version filed earlier.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 213-1672. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment

cc: Service List

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing upon the parties listed below via electronic mail and/or hand-delivery, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 154 (relating to service by a party):

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Dated this 15th day of July, 2025

/s/ Bernice I. Corman

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for :
Approval of its Second : Docket No. P-2024-3049223
Distributed Energy Resources :
Management Plan :

EXCEPTIONS BRIEF OF JOINT SOLAR PARTIES

On June 30, 2025, Administrative Law Judge John M. Coogan issued a recommended decision (“RD”) in the above-captioned matter recommending that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (the “Commission”) deny PPL Electric Utilities Corporation’s (“PPL’s” or the “Company’s”) Petition for Approval of its Second Distributed Energy Resources Management Plan (“Petition”).

PPL’s Petition requested that the Commission approve tariff modifications and other authorizations needed to implement PPLs Second Distributed Energy Resources (“DER”) Management Plan (“Second DER Management Plan”) pursuant to Paragraph 62 of the October 5, 2020 Joint Petition for Settlement of All Issues (“Settlement”) approved by the Commission at *Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for Approval of Tariff Modifications and Waivers of Regulations Necessary to Implement its Distributed Energy Resources Management Plan*, Docket No. P-2019-3010128 (Order entered Dec. 17, 2020). RD, p. 1. Settlement Paragraph 62 authorized PPL’s filing a request to extend its First DER Management Plan and Pilot Program (“Pilot Program”), which Program was implemented pursuant to Rule 12 of PPL’s Tariff.¹

¹ See PPL Electric Statement No. 1, p. 12. As noted in the RD, “[e]lectric distribution companies are required to ‘file a tariff with the Commission that provides for net metering’ consistent with Chapter 75 of the Commission’s regulations. 52 Pa. Code § 75.13(c).”

The Joint Solar Parties (“JSPs”), an ad hoc group of entities consisting of American Home Contractors, Inc., Enphase Energy, Inc., the Solar Energy Industries Association, SolarEdge Technologies, Inc., Sun Directed, Tesla, Inc. and Trinity Solar, LLC, support, and except as provided herein, take no exception to any aspect of the RD, but reserve their rights to reply to any exceptions that may be filed thereon by PPL or any other party. The JSPs submit this brief to note “exceptions” with the RD’s omission of certain housekeeping matters that will need to be addressed for PPL to wind down its Pilot Program, should the Commission adopt the RD and deny PPL’s Petition, which would result in the Pilot Program’s terminating.²

As noted in the RD, the JSPs requested

As relief . . . , that the Commission bar PPL from requiring that inverters be tested for compatibility with PPL’s Device; deny the Petition, although PPL may continue to require smart inverter settings that provide voltage regulation via autonomous functions; or, if the Commission chooses not to deny approval, then make the Program voluntary, and its requirements and testing applicable only to voluntarily participating DERs; and order PPL to immediately cease connecting to SolarEdge inverters to power its Devices, and replace SolarEdge inverters in which it has installed its Device, or pay \$2 million into a fund for replacements of inverters with PPL’s Devices installed and thermal damage.

RD, p. 35.

The Recommended Decision does not address the JSPs’ requests. The JSPs respectfully request that the Recommended Decision address these requests and related housekeeping matters, as follows:

First, the RD notes:

Since January 1, 2023, PPL’s Pilot Program has required that new DERs interconnecting with PPL’s distribution system use smart inverters approved by PPL as meeting IEEE 1547-2018, and certified to UL 1741 SB using IEEE 1547-2018, and certified to UL 1741 SB using IEEE 1547.1-2020, and meeting PPL’s DER Lab’s testing requirements “to ensure that [the inverters] are compatible with PPL Electric’s DER Management Devices.”

² A September 12, 2024 Opinion and Order issued in Docket No. 2019-3010128 provided that the Pilot Program would last “... until thirty (30) days after the Commission’s Final Order is entered in the Company’s ongoing Second DER Management Plan (Second DER Plan) proceeding.”

RD, ¶ 31 (citing PPL St. 2, pp. 9 - 10) (emphasis added).³ In other words, PPL is presently subjecting all inverters applying to interconnect in PPL territory to Company testing, regardless of whether an inverter is associated with a DER that is in the Pilot or not in the Pilot.⁴

The JSPs respectfully request that the Commission clarify that as of the date of the Final Order issued in this docket, if said Final Order will end the Pilot, that PPL is not authorized to subject inverters to PPL DER Lab testing, nor to condition interconnection on the results of any testing done by it or on its behalf.

Relatedly, the JSPs respectfully request that the Commission clarify that as of the date of its Final Order, PPL is no longer allowed to restrict installation of certain inverter types to single-inverter installations or maintain any other restrictions that were based on testing PPL performed under the Pilot for compatibility with its DER Management Device, which Device PPL will no longer be installing if its Petition is denied. For example, as of the date of this submission, at least 47 inverter models from six manufacturers are restricted to single-inverter installations due to restrictions implemented under the Pilot.⁵ These restrictions should no longer apply if compatibility with PPL's DER device is no longer required.

The JSPs also note that PPL's current Tariff requires that PPL make a list of smart inverters meeting the tariff's requirements "publicly available and regularly updated on the Company's

³ See also Hrg. Tr. pp. 368 – 369, where PPL testified that it tests and reviews an inverter in its lab, i.e., in addition to reviewing the certifications supplied by nationally recognized test labs, when an inverter manufacturer asks to be added to PPL's approved inverter list.

⁴ The JSPs note that PPL's current tariff required compatibility testing for inverters only through December 31, 2022. Thus, PPL's continued requirement for compatibility testing is inconsistent with the plain language of its tariff.

⁵ PPL Electric St. No. 2, PPL Electric Exhibit AD-1, PPL's Approved Inverter List dated May 17, 2024, identified 23 inverter models as being limited to "One ... Inverter per Application." PPL's February 17, 2025 Approved Smart Inverter List (appended to the JSPs' Reply Brief as Appendix A) identified 45 inverter models as restricted. Joint Solar Parties' Reply Brief, p. 12. PPL's May 30, 2025 Approved Smart Inverter List identifies 47 models as restricted.

REMSI website.” The JSPs respectfully maintain that if the Commission adopts the RD and denies PPL’s Second Plan, the current Tariff’s listing requirement should also cease, as should PPL’s independent testing, as all that should be required is certification to national standards, as set forth in 52 Pa. Code § 75.22.

Second, the JSPs respectfully request that the RD order clarify that if the Commission affirms the recommended denial of PPL’s Petition, along with PPL’s ceasing active management, PPL must also cease active monitoring of Customer-Owned and Third-Party-Owned inverters unless and until customers have provided written consent to such monitoring.⁶ Confirming that consent is required will ameliorate the harms caused under the present, non-consensual, Pilot Program. *See, e.g.,* RD, p. 38, noting OCA’s assertion that “PPL’s active monitoring of DERs provides minimal benefit at a high cost and PPL’s cost-benefit analysis is flawed. *See also, Id.*, ¶¶ 68 – 71, 76 – 77 and 80 – 85.

Relatedly, the JSPs respectfully request that the Commission clarify and confirm that as of the date of the Final Order issued in this Docket, for those Customer-Owned or Third-Party Owned smart inverters who have not consented to continued monitoring, PPL disconnect, or allow disconnection of, its Device from those data ports. As described in the JSPs’ briefs and testimony, PPL’s DER Management Device prevents DER customers, installers, and manufacturers from

⁶ The JSPs note that while Settlement Paragraph 62 reserved the right of PPL to “...continue the existing remote active management program until litigation over a petition [for an extension of the Pilot Program period] concludes,” Settlement Paragraph 63 provided:

“Regardless of whether this remote active management program is continued or not, the Company will be authorized to continue: (a) requiring new DERs to have IEEE 1547-2018 compliant smart inverters per ¶ 49, (b) utilizing the smart inverters’ automated grid support functions per ¶ 58, and (c) monitoring the DERs that have the Company’s DER management devices installed per ¶ 55, provided that such monitoring shall continue only with written customer consent.”

(emphasis added).

servicing the DERs inverter without coordinating with PPL, and these issues could persist if PPL's device continues to occupy DERs' data ports. *See* RD, Findings of Fact, ¶¶ 51 – 53. Additionally, PPL's access to data ports threatens to complicate potential use of the data ports by DER aggregators in the future. *See, Id.*, ¶ 101.⁷

Finally, the JSPs respectfully reiterate their request that PPL replace SolarEdge inverters in which it has installed its Device or pay \$2 million into a fund for replacements of inverters with PPL's Devices installed and thermal damage, as neither PPL customers nor SolarEdge should continue to bear the burden of remedying damages to inverters caused by PPL's method of installing its Device therein.

Respectfully submitted,



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⁷ The JSPs note that PPL's present Tariff Rule 12(C)(3) (DER Management Device) states:

All DERs whether Customer-Owned or Third-Party Owned that are applying to interconnect with PPL Electric's distribution system must install smart inverters as defined in Rule 12(C)(2). Additionally, for the term of the pilot program described in Rule 12(D), a DER Management Device owned, installed, and maintained by the Company will be connected to the data port of the smart inverter for any new DER installation.

(emphasis added).