

August 11, 2025

**Via Electronic Filing**

Matthew Homsher, Esquire  
Secretary  
PA Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: Docket No. C-2025-3056386  
Frances Stauffer & Sandy Stauffer v. PECO Energy Company  
Preliminary Objections of PECO**

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Attached for filing is the Preliminary Objections of PECO Energy Company (Respondent) to the Complaint filed by Frances Stauffer & Sandy Stauffer (Complainants) in the above-referenced proceeding.

A copy of the Preliminary Objections has been provided to the Complainants in the manner indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Reger Rizzo & Darnall LLP  
  
Margaret A. Morris

MAM/co  
Enclosures

cc: Khadijah Scott, Esquire, PECO Energy Company [w/o encl]  
Frances Stauffer & Sandy Stauffer [w/encls.]

**Re: Docket No. C-2025-3056386  
Frances Stauffer & Sandy Stauffer v. PECO Energy Company  
Preliminary Objections of PECO**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been served upon the following person(s), in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

**Via First-Class Mail**

Frances Stauffer & Sandy Stauffer  
4937 Wisher Road  
New Hope, PA 18938

Dated: August 11, 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret A. Morris, Esquire

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

FRANCES STAUFFER AND  
SANDY STAUFFER

v.

PECO ENERGY COMPANY

:  
:  
:  
:  
:  
:

Docket No. C-2025-3056386

**NOTICE TO PLEAD**

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.63, you are hereby notified that if you do not file a written response answering the enclosed Preliminary Objections of PECO Energy Company within ten (10) days from service of this notice, the facts set forth by PECO Energy Company in the Preliminary Objections may be deemed to be true, whereby requiring no other proof. All pleadings, such as a Reply to Preliminary Objections, must be filed with the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, with a copy served to counsel for PECO Energy Company, Margaret A. Morris, Esq., and where applicable, the Administrative Law Judge presiding over the issue.

**File by Mail or e-filing with:**

Matthew Homsher, Esquire  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**With a copy to:**

Margaret A. Morris, Esquire  
Reger Rizzo & Darnall LLP  
Cira Centre, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2929 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
[mmorris@regerlaw.com](mailto:mmorris@regerlaw.com)

Date: August 11, 2025



---

Margaret A. Morris, Esquire  
Attorney ID No. 75048  
Reger Rizzo & Darnall LLP  
Cira Centre, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2929 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
(215) 495-6524 (tel.)  
[mmorris@regerlaw.com](mailto:mmorris@regerlaw.com)

*Counsel for PECO Energy Company*

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

FRANCES STAUFFER	:	
& SANDY STAUFFER	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2025-3056386
	:	
PECO ENERGY COMPANY	:	

**PRELIMINARY OBJECTION OF PECO ENERGY COMPANY TO  
THE FORMAL COMPLAINT OF FRANCES STAUFFER & SANDY STAUFFER**

PECO Energy Company (PECO or Respondent), by and through its attorneys, Reger Rizzo & Darnall LLP, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.101, hereby files its Preliminary Objection to the Formal Complaint of Frances Stauffer & Sandy Stauffer (Complainants) filed in the above-captioned proceeding.

The Respondent avers that the subject of the Formal Complaint is beyond the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) who is without authorization to grant the Complainants’ request for damages. The Formal Complaint includes an impertinent matter in its requested relief. Therefore, the Respondent requests that this Preliminary Objection be granted and that the Commission: (1) grant its Preliminary Objections and strike the Complainants’ requests for monetary damages; (2) expressly prohibit the Complainants from introducing any testimony or exhibits at any evidentiary hearing regarding alleged damages; and (3) grant PECO such other relief as may be just and reasonable under the circumstances.

In support of its preliminary objections, the Respondent states as follows:

## **I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

1. PECO is an electric distribution company certificated as a public utility permitted to operate within the Commonwealth in Pennsylvania and provides non-residential electric service in the name of Frances Stauffer to 4937 Wismer Rd, New Hope, Pennsylvania (Service Location) under Account No. 5151909000 (Account).

2. The Complainants filed a Formal Complaint alleging that a “surge” at the Service Location “blew [the Complainants’] refrigerator” even though there was “no storm, no wind, no rain.” The Complainants request that PECO pay for a new refrigerator (\$2,499.00) and lost refrigerator contents (\$350.00).

3. In its Answer being served contemporaneously with this Preliminary Objection, the Respondent specifically denied responsibility for the alleged damages to Complainants’ personal property.

4. Pursuant to 52. Pa. Code § 5.101, the Respondent objects to the Formal Complaint on the grounds that the Commission lacks jurisdiction to award monetary damages. The Complainants seek compensation for financial losses incurred as a result of the outage.

## **II. Argument**

5. The Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure permit parties to file preliminary objections. The grounds for preliminary objections are limited to those set forth in 52 Pa. Code § 5.101(a) as follows:

- (1) Lack of Commission jurisdiction or improper service of the pleading initiating the proceeding.
- (2) Failure of a pleading to conform to this chapter or the inclusion of scandalous or impertinent matter.

- (3) Insufficient specificity of a pleading.
- (4) Legal insufficiency of a pleading.
- (5) Lack of capacity to sue, nonjoinder of a necessary party or misjoinder of a cause of action.
- (6) Pendency of a prior proceeding or agreement for alternative dispute resolution.
- (7) Standing of a party to participate in the proceeding.

6. Commission's procedure regarding the disposition of preliminary objections is similar to that utilized in Pennsylvania civil practice. *Equitable Small Transportation Intervenors v. Equitable Gas Company*, Docket No. C-00935435 (Opinion and Order entered July 18, 1994).

7. In the instant Formal Complaint, the Complainants request "Total Damages," in the amount of \$2,849.00 incurred as a result of the issue with the power provided to the Service Location. Complaint at ¶ 4.

8. Clearly, that requested relief sought through the Formal Complaint is an award of monetary damages from the Company.

A. Impertinent Matter

9. The Commission's procedural regulations allow a party to object to pleadings that fail to comply with the rules of administrative practice or that include scandalous or impertinent matters. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 5.102(a)(2).

10. It is well-established under Pennsylvania law that the enforcement powers of the Commission do not include the power to award money damages. *Elkin v. Bell Tel. Co. of PA.*, 420 A.2d 371 (Pa. 1980); *Feingold v. Bell of Pa.*, 383 A.2d 791 (Pa. 1978); *see Nagy v. Bell Tel. Co. of PA.*, 436 A.2d 701 (Pa. Super. 1981).

11. In *Feingold*, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court explained:

. . . the statutory array of PUC remedial and enforcement powers does not include the power to award damages to a private litigant for breach of contract by a public utility. Nor can we find an express grant of power from which the power to award such damages can be fairly implied. Thus, it can be concluded that the Legislature did not intend for the PUC to have such a power.

*Feingold*, 383 A.2d at 794.

12. The Court of Common Pleas retains original jurisdiction over suits for monetary damages. *Behrend, supra*.

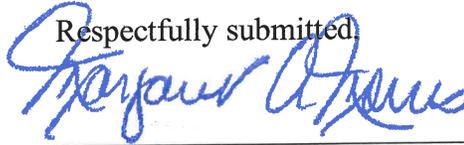
13. A prayer for damages, which are not legally recoverable in the cause of action, is “impertinent matter” in the sense that it is irrelevant to that cause of action and is correctly challenged through a motion to strike the requested relief as impertinent matter. *Third Avenue Realty Limited Partners v. Pennsylvania-American Water Co.*, Docket No. C-2010-2167286 (Final Order entered September 30, 2010) (citing *Hudock v. Donegal Mut. Ins. Co.*, 264 A.2d 668 (Pa. 1970)).

14. The Complainants’ requested relief for damages is irrelevant to the instant cause of action and therefore an “impertinent matter.”

15. Therefore, in accordance with Pennsylvania law, this Commission does not have the power to award monetary damages and the Complainants’ request for money damages is an impertinent matter that must be stricken within the use and meaning of Commission regulation at 52 Pa. Code § 5.101(a)(2).

**WHEREFORE**, Respondent, PECO Energy Company, respectfully requests that the request for monetary damages be stricken from the Formal Complaint filed by Frances Stauffer & Sandy Stauffer for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: August 11, 2025

---

Margaret A. Morris, Esq.  
Attorney ID No. 75048  
Reger Rizzo & Darnall LLP  
Cira Centre, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2929 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
(215) 495-6524 tel.  
[mmorris@regerlaw.com](mailto:mmorris@regerlaw.com)

*Counsel for PECO Energy Company*