

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Faith Canaan Baptist Church	:	
	:	
v.	:	F-2025-3058706
	:	
PECO Energy Company - Electric	:	

INTERIM ORDER #1

This Order directs Faith Canaan Baptist Church to have an attorney enter his or her appearance on its behalf **on or before January 19, 2026.**

Procedural History

On October 27, 2025, a Formal Complaint was filed by Elizabeth P. Scott on behalf of Faith Canaan Baptist Church with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) against PECO Energy Company – Electric (“Respondent”), requesting an affordable payment arrangement for the Church. On page 10 of the Complaint form, titled “legal representation,” no attorney is listed as representing the Church in this matter. Ms. Scott identified herself as an administrator for the Church. The Complaint was served to Respondent on November 19, 2025.

This matter is a timely appeal from a determination of the Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Services (“BCS”) at BCS No. 4093018, wherein the BCS provided the Church with a six-month payment arrangement.

On December 4, 2025, Respondent filed an Answer to the Complaint, wherein Respondent denied that the Church was entitled to an additional payment arrangement and requested that the Commission dismiss the Complaint. Respondent additionally averred that as a commercial customer, the Church is required to be represented by an attorney in this matter.

On December 8, 2025, Ms. Scott filed a Reply to Answer and New Matter. I note that Respondent's Answer does not contain New Matter.

On December 17, 2025, a Hearing Notice was issued to the parties, scheduling this matter for an evidentiary hearing on February 2, 2026. Of relevance, the Hearing Notice states the following:

REPRESENTATION. If you are an individual, you may represent yourself or you may have an attorney represent you. All others, including a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, must be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*. Only an attorney may represent someone else.

December 17, 2025, Hearing Notice.

Also on December 17, 2025, a Prehearing Order was issued to the parties, providing the parties with the procedural rules that would govern the hearing. Of relevance, the Prehearing Order states the following:

7. **REPRESENTATION.** If you are an individual, you may represent yourself or you may have an attorney represent you. All others, including a partnership, corporation, trust, association, or governmental agency or subdivision, must be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*. And, unless you are an attorney, you may not represent someone else.

December 17, 2025, Prehearing Order.

Attorney Representation

The Complaint in this matter was filed by Elizabeth P. Scott on behalf of the Church as its administrator. Ms. Scott did not indicate that she was an attorney licensed to

practice law in Pennsylvania, further, no attorney is listed on paragraph 10 of the Complaint titled “legal representation.” In the Reply to Answer and New Matter, Ms. Scott asserted that the Church does not need to be represented by counsel and can be represented by an authorized representative. Ms. Scott is incorrect.

The Commission’s regulations require that persons in adversarial proceedings be represented by an attorney or legal intern. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 1.21(b). The Commission’s regulations define “persons” as including individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, joint ventures, other business organizations, trusts, trustees, legal representatives, receivers, agencies, governmental entities, municipalities, municipal corporations or other political subdivisions. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 1.8. The Church is a person under this regulation. Once Respondent filed an Answer to the Complaint, this proceeding became adversarial in nature. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 1.8.

It is well-settled in Commission practice that participation in a formal adversarial proceeding before the Commission constitutes the practice of law. *See, e.g.,* *Lesley A. Scheaffer for Leslie W. Scheaffer v. Pa. Pub. Util. Comm’n*, Docket No. F-2016-2577647 (Opinion and Order entered Apr. 3, 2018). As such, that participation is limited to those who either file as individuals and represent themselves or to attorneys who are representing others. *Id.*

Accordingly, upon the filing of the Answer in this matter, the Church was required to be represented by an attorney. The absence of an attorney where one is required deprives the Commission of jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter. *Adventure Alley CLC, LLC v. PECO Energy Co. and Great Am. Power*, Docket No. C-2014-2430850 (Final Order entered Nov. 25, 2014) (citing *McCain v. Curione, Pa. Bd. of Prob. and Parole*, 527 A.2d 591 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1987)). An issue of subject matter jurisdiction may be raised at any stage of a proceeding by a party or *sua sponte* by the presiding officer or by the Commission. *Blackwell v. State Ethics Comm’n*, 567 A.2d 630 (Pa. 1989).

Accordingly, this Order directs the Church to have an attorney enter his or her appearance on its behalf **on or before January 19, 2026**. Non-compliance with this Order will

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Served via email December 18, 2025

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Served via eService December 18, 2025