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February 2, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: Velva Millender v. Duquesne Light Company
Docket No. C-2026-3059729

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Attached for filing please find the Preliminary Objections of Duquesne Light Company in response to the Complaint of Velva Millender in the above-referenced proceeding. Copies are being provided as indicated in the Certificate of Service. Should you have any questions please contact me.

Sophia Al Rasheed

Sophia Al Rasheed

PA ID #325196

SAR/clk

Enclosure[s]

CC: Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

VIA USPS FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Velva Millender
1374 Woodlawn Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15221

Date: February 2, 2026

Sophia Al Rasheed

Sophia Al Rasheed

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Velva Millender,	:	
	:	
Complainant,	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2026-3059729
	:	
Duquesne Light Company,	:	
	:	
Respondent.	:	

NOTICE TO PLEAD

YOU ARE HEREBY ADVISED THAT, PURSUANT TO 52 PA. CODE § 5.101, YOU MAY FILE AN ANSWER TO THE ENCLOSED PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS OF THE DATE OF SERVICE HEREOF. YOUR ANSWER TO THE PRELIMINARY OBJECTION MUST BE FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION, P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265. A COPY SHOULD ALSO BE SERVED ON THE UNDERSIGNED COUNSEL.

Sophia Al Rasheed

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Phone: 412-925-9123
salrasheed@duqlight.com

Date: February 2, 2026

Attorney for Duquesne Light Company

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Velva Millender,	:	
	:	
Complainant,	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2026-3059729
	:	
Duquesne Light Company,	:	
	:	
Respondent.	:	

**PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS OF
DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY TO THE COMPLAINT OF
VELVA MILLENDER**

TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.101, Duquesne Light Company files the following Preliminary Objections to the Formal Complaint (“Complaint”) of Velva Millender (“Complainant”). Pursuant to §§ 5.61, 5.62, and 5.101(d) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission” or “PUC”) regulations, Duquesne Light Company (“Duquesne Light” or the “Company”) filed an Answer and New Matter on this same date. The Company respectfully requests that the Formal Complaint of Velva Millender be dismissed.

In support thereof, Duquesne Light states as follows:

I. BACKGROUND

1. Duquesne Light is a “public utility,” an “electric distribution company,” and a “default service provider” as defined in Sections 102 and 2803 of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 102, 2803.

2. On January 13, 2026, Duquesne Light was served with the above-captioned Formal Complaint filed by the Complainant.

3. Duquesne Light Company herein files these Preliminary Objections to the Complaint. For the reasons set forth below, Duquesne Light Company respectfully requests that the Complaint be dismissed in its entirety pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §5.101(a).

II. LEGAL STANDARD.

4. Pursuant to the Commission's regulations, preliminary objections in response to a pleading may be filed on several grounds, including:

- (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.

52 Pa. Code § 5.101(a) (emphasis added).

5. In ruling on preliminary objections, the Presiding Officer must accept as true all well-pled allegations of material facts as well as all inferences reasonably deducible therefrom. *Stilp v. Cmwth.*, 910 A.2d 775, 781 (Pa. Cmwth. 2006) (citing *Dep't of Gen. Servs. v. Bd. of Claims*, 881 A.2d 14 (Pa. Cmwth. 2005)). However, the Presiding Officer need not accept as true conclusions of law, unwarranted inferences from facts, argumentative allegations, or expressions of opinion. *Stanton-Negley Drug Co. v. Dep't of Pub. Welfare*, 927 A.2d 671, 673 (Pa. Cmwth.

2007). For preliminary objections to be sustained, it must appear with certainty that the law will permit no recovery, and any doubt must be resolved in favor of the non-moving party. *Stilp*, 910 A.2d at 779 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2006).

III. PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS

A. LEGAL INSUFFICIENCY. The Complainant's Complaint is barred by the doctrine of *res judicata*.

6. Duquesne Light incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 5 as if fully set forth herein.

7. According to Paragraph 4 of the Complaint, the Complainant's reason for Complaint is a termination notice and a charge of \$540.18. (Complaint ¶ 4).

8. Notably, the Complainant's Complaint alleges that Company has been attempting to collect the \$540.18 since 2020. *Id.*

9. As relief, the Complainant solely requests that the Company remove charges from her account. (Complaint ¶ 5).

10. The Complainant filed a substantially similar Complaint at C-2024-3048892 on April 30, 2024. ("Formal Complaint 2024").

11. On July 17, 2024, a hearing was held for the matter docketed at C-2024-3048892.

12. On April 28, 2025, an Initial Decision was issued in the Formal Complaint of Velva Millender against Duquesne Light Company at Docket C-2024-3048892, dismissing the Formal Complaint 2024 ("Initial Decision 2024").

13. On May 30, 2025, a Final Order was issued, closing the matter under Docket No. C-2024-3048892 ("Final Order 2024").

14. Of note, the final paragraph of the Initial Decision stated "...Duquesne Light is authorized to collect the current disputed amount of \$540.18" (Initial Decision 2024 at 11).

15. Complainant's Formal Complaint 2024 was fully litigated. (*See* Initial Decision 2024 1-2).

16. Because a Final Decision and Order was issued dismissing Complainant's Complaint and authorizing the Company to collect the disputed amount of \$540.18, the Complainant is barred from litigating the same claim in this Complaint.

17. The Complainant's claim regarding the unpaid balance of \$540.18 is barred by the doctrine of *res judicata*.

18. The Company respectfully requests that the portions of the Complaint regarding the \$540.18 be removed from the bill be dismissed.

B. Impertinent Matter. The Complainant's sole request for relief is removal of charges, which is outside of the jurisdiction of the Commission.

19. Duquesne Light incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 18 as though fully set forth herein.

20. The Complainant's sole request for relief is for the Company to remove charges from her account. (Complaint ¶ 4)

21. It is well established that the Commission does not have jurisdiction over actions for damages. *Horowitz v. PECO*, Docket No. C-2013-2382740, 2013 WL 7019109, at 3 (Dec. 30, 2013).

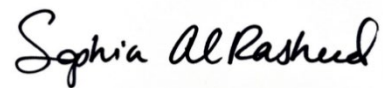
22. The Complainant's request for relief is a request for monetary damages which is outside of the jurisdiction of the Commission.

23. Accordingly, the Company respectfully requests that the portions of the Complaint referencing a removal of charges be stricken from the Complaint.

I. **CONCLUSION**

WHEREFORE, Duquesne Light Company respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission grant these Preliminary Objections and dismiss the Complaint against the Company.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 2, 2026