

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

April Harrell	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2025-3059110
	:	
Duquesne Light Company	:	

**INTERIM ORDER
Granting Respondent's
Motion to Join
Pennsylvania Gas and Electric
as an Indispensable Party**

Before
Katrina L. Dunderdale
Administrative Law Judge

On December 5, 2026, April Harrell (Complainant) filed a Formal Complaint (Complaint) against Duquesne Light Company (Respondent or DLC) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission). Complainant allege DLC was threatening to shut off electric service or had already shut off electric service. In addition, Ms. Harrell alleged DLC transferred her electric account from DLC as a supplier to Pennsylvania Gas and Electric (PAG&E) as a supplier without her permission Complainant requested Respondent any charges on the billing statements that used PAG&E's supply rate. In the Complaint, Ms. Harrell requested the Commission's eService as her preferred method to receive service of documents in this proceeding.

On December 23, 2025, Respondent filed and served its Answer in which it generally denied Complainant's allegations. Respondent admitted the Complaint concerns a decision of the Commission's Bureau of Consumer Services (BCS) on October 31, 2025, at BCS No. 4092294, which dismissed Complainant's informal complaint filed against PAG&E. DLC

further alleged Complainant was billed properly based on her actual electric usage, and Respondent denied Complainant did not enroll with a supplier.

On February 5, 2026, Respondent filed the Motion to Join Pennsylvania Gas and Electric (Motion to Join). Respondent contended it provides electric service to Complainant at 1481 Maple Drive, Apartment 4, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (service address), and the Complaint involves a dispute whether Ms. Harrell enrolled with PAG&E as a supplier. DLC alleged Complainant received competitive electric generation supply service from PAG&E from November 18, 2024 to September 8, 2025.

Duquesne Light contended Complainant's issues herein relate solely to her former electric supplier, PAG&E, and the supplier's involvement is needed to address the enrollment dispute. Respondent requested the Commission join PAG&E in this proceeding as an indispensable party. In the alternative, DLC argued the Complaint should be dismissed in its entirety because Complainant failed to join a necessary party.

Both Complainant and PAG&E were served a copy of the Motion to Join. Neither Complainant nor PAG&E has responded to the Motion to Join.

On February 23, 2026, the Office of Administrative Law Judge mailed a Motion Judge Assignment Notice informing the parties that Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Katrina Dunderdale was assigned as the Motion Judge.

DISCUSSION

An indispensable party is one whose rights are so connected with the claims of the litigants that no relief can be granted without impairing or infringing upon those rights. The failure to join an indispensable party deprives a court of subject matter jurisdiction and renders null any subsequent judgment. The issue of the absence of an indispensable party may be raised at any time. *Church of Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. v. Shelton*, 740 A.2d 751 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1999).

Complainant raised the issue that Duquesne Light was incorrect to enroll her electric service account with PAG&E in November 2024 as an electric generation supplier without her permission. Complainant contended she did not request service from an EGS, and she did not sign or provide verbal acceptance of PAG&E as a supplier. Complainant asked the Commission to have all EGS charges removed from her electric service account.

The presiding officer agrees with Respondent – the Complaint cannot proceed unless PAG&E participates in the proceeding. For the proper application of Section 1501 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 1501, and to properly consider Ms. Harrell’s allegations, PAG&E must be joined as an indispensable party. PAG&E initiated the change in suppliers when it contacted DLC, and that contact led DLC to change its billing statements to reflect PAG&E as the supplier. Accordingly, it is appropriate to join PAG&E as an indispensable party to this action to determine if Ms. Harrell requested the supplier switch from DLC to PAG&E.

PAG&E will have an opportunity to object to its addition as an indispensable party if it files a responsive pleading **on or before March 6, 2026**. Complainant and Respondent will have an opportunity at the initial hearing, on **March 12, 2026**, in which to respond to PAG&E’s objection, if an objection is filed. Thereafter, the presiding officer will rule on any objection and/or response prior to the start of the telephonic initial hearing. Otherwise, if no objection is received, PAG&E will be joined as an indispensable party.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Commission’s Secretary’s Bureau shall serve a copy of this Order and the Formal Complaint upon the electric generation supplier, Pennsylvania Gas and Electric.
2. That Respondent, Duquesne Light Company, shall serve a copy of its Answer upon Pennsylvania Gas and Electric **on or before February 27, 2026**, via First Class Mail, and shall file a Certificate of Service with the Commission’s Secretary’s Bureau.

3. That Pennsylvania Gas and Electric may file a responsive pleading to the Formal Complaint filed by April Harrell, docketed at C-2025-3059110, with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Secretary's Bureau, and serve such responsive pleading on April Harrell, Duquesne Light Company, and the undersigned **on or before March 6, 2026**.

4. That April Harrell and/or Duquesne Light Company may file a response - if Pennsylvania Gas and Electric elects to object to its joinder as an indispensable party - provided the responses are received on or before March 11, 2026. Those responses must be filed by either eFile with the Commission or by First Class Mail, addressed to:

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

5. That the telephonic initial hearing scheduled for March 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. shall proceed as scheduled.

Date: February 24, 2026

Katrina L. Dunderdale
Administrative Law Judge

C-2025-3059110 - APRIL HARRELL v. DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY

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