

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**Petition of PPL Electric Utilities
Corporation for Approval of a Second
Major Modification to its Existing
Long-Term Infrastructure
Improvement Plan**

**Public Meeting of March 26, 2026
Agenda No. 3034972-TUS
Docket No. P-2022-3034972**

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN STEPHEN M. DeFRANK

Before us for consideration today is a Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL) for approval of a second major modification to its existing Long-Term Infrastructure Improvement Plan (LTIIIP). The proposed modification would increase PPL's LTIIIP spending by \$329 million in calendar year 2026 and \$332 million in calendar 2027. If the modification is approved, total spending for the final two years for this LTIIIP would increase from \$267.3 million under the current approved plan, to \$928.2 million – an increase of \$660.9 million, or nearly 250 percent.

Reliability is a paramount concern of this Commission. Over the last several years, PPL has seen significant deterioration in its reliability metrics, with the number and duration of service interruptions increasing precipitously. Between 2022 and 2024, PPL's reliability fell across the board – its 2024 scorecard shows that it failed to meet benchmarks in almost all categories. Given the sharp fall in quality of service, I understand PPL's desire to invest more and reverse this trend.

While I am extremely reticent to question investments in reliability, there are several factors that give me pause regarding the petition before us. First, the scale of the proposed increases is dramatic. Total spending over the five years of the current approved LTIIIP was set at \$715 million. The proposed modification would increase spending in just the final two years by \$661 million. Such a large increase at this stage of an approved plan requires careful evaluation.

Additionally, I believe this request is the consequence of poor planning by PPL. The logic of five-year infrastructure improvement plans is to design steady investment plans that do not result in dramatic swings in spending. That PPL was caught so off guard by the drop in its reliability metrics suggests that the Company should improve its planning processes prior to filing another LTIIIP with this Commission.

Finally, I question the timing of this petition. PPL's approved LTIIIP is a five-year plan set to run from 2023 to 2027. A modification of this scale at this stage gives me pause. Moreover, we are considering this petition for modification while PPL has a rate case pending. This overlap concerns me. PPL's decision to file its rate case and this modification of its LTIIIP nearly simultaneously was, in my opinion, imprudent.

Now more than ever, energy affordability is front of mind for policymakers and regulators alike. More importantly, utility costs are a source of anxiety for Pennsylvanians all over the Commonwealth struggling to balance their budgets at the kitchen table. While approval of an LTIIP does not guarantee rate recovery, this petition paired with PPL's request in its rate proceeding represent \$1 billion combined spending. That may result in significant cost increases to ratepayers already struggling to pay utility bills.

Ultimately, PPL's deteriorating reliability metrics persuade me to approve this petition in spite of my misgivings. Having said that, I urge PPL – and all of our utilities – to enhance their planning processes for infrastructure investments and minimize the need for such large modifications. Moreover, I urge PPL to ensure that these precious ratepayer dollars are wisely invested and result in appreciable improvements in its reliability metrics.

March 26, 2026

Date



Stephen M. DeFrank
Chairman