

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

VQ Properties, LLC	:	
	:	
v.	:	F-2025-3059221
	:	
PECO Energy Company	:	

INTERIM ORDER #1

This Order directs William Vargus to have counsel enter his or her appearance on behalf of VQ Properties, LLC **on or before July 2, 2026**.

HISTORY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

On November 21, 2025, William Vargus (Mr. Vargus or Complainant) filed a Formal Complaint (Complaint) against PECO Energy Company (PECO) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) concerning utility service provided to VG Properties, LLC. Complaint ¶ 1. The Complaint concerns allegations that PECO charged his company for electric service from May 2024 until March 2025, even though the lease stated that the tenant must pay the utilities. Complaint ¶ 4. For relief, Complainant requested that the bill be dismissed. Complaint ¶ 5.

On December 12, 2025, PECO was served with the Complaint.

On January 5, 2026, PECO filed an Answer with New Matter and in its Answer denied the material allegations in the Complaint. Answer ¶ 4.

In its New Matter, properly endorsed with a Notice to Plead, PECO asserted that Complainant is a business entity and must be represented by a licensed attorney in adversarial proceedings. PECO concluded its Answer with New Matter by requesting dismissal of the Complaint, with prejudice or denied in its entirety.

Complainant did not file an Answer to PECO's New Matter.

On February 4, 2026, an Interim Order Setting Resolution Conference was issued.

On June 2, 2026, an Initial Telephonic Hearing Notice was sent to the parties scheduling a telephone hearing for August 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. 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.

June 2, 2026, Hearing Notice.

On June 3, 2026, 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.

June 3, 2026, Prehearing Order.

Once PECO filed an Answer to the Complaint, this proceeding became adversarial in nature. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 1.8 (“adversarial proceeding”). The Commission’s regulations require that persons in adversarial proceedings be represented by an attorney. *See* 52 Pa. Code § 1.21(b). The Commission’s regulations define a “person” as a term that includes 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 (“person”).

Accordingly, upon the filing of the Answer in this matter, VQ Properties, LLC was required to be represented by an attorney. Mr. Vargus did not indicate that he was an attorney licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania, further, no attorney is listed on paragraph 10 of the Complaint titled “legal representation.” 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)). In its New Matter, PECO argued that Complainant must be represented by an attorney once the matter became adversarial upon the filing of its Answer. 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. *Cars R Us c/o Holman Copeland v PGW*, Docket No. C-2008-2033437 (Order entered February 4, 2010).

Accordingly, this Order directs an attorney enter his or her appearance on behalf of VQ Properties, LLC **on or before July 2, 2026**. Failure to comply with this Order will result in cancellation of the hearing and dismissal of the Complaint. *See, e.g., New Fizon Catering, Inc. v. PECO Energy Co.*, Docket No. C-2008-2065498 (Opinion and Order entered June 24, 2009); *Snyderville Cmty. Dev. Corp. v. Phila. Gas Works*, Docket No. C-20055032 (Opinion and Order entered July 31, 2006) (citing *Treffinger v. PPL Elec. Util. Corp.*, Docket No. C-20027978 (Opinion and Order entered Mar. 3, 2003); *Franconia Mennonite Conf. v. Verizon Pa. Inc.*, Docket No. C-2010-2193709 (Order entered June 6, 2003).

ORDER

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That William Vargus shall have an attorney enter his or her appearance on behalf of VQ Properties, LLC on or before **July 2, 2026**.

2. That failure of William Vargus to comply with this Order will result in dismissal of the Complaint with prejudice.

Date: June 11, 2026

/s/
Barbara Shadie Nause
Administrative Law Judge

F-2025-3059221 - VQ PROPERTIES LLC v. PECO ENERGY COMPANY

VQ PROPERTIES
WILLIAM VARGUS MANAGING MEMBER
PO BOX 266
SUITE 266
LIMA PA 19037
610.716.0535
billvargus@gmail.com
Served via eService June 11, 2026

MARGARET MORRIS ESQUIRE
REGER RIZZO & DARNALL
CIRA CENTRE 13TH FL
2929 ARCH STREET
PHILADELPHIA PA 19104
215.495.6524
215.870.5785
mmorris@regerlaw.com
Served via eService June 11, 2026
(Counsel for PECO Energy Company)