

## OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA 555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Forum Place Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-1923

IRWIN A. POPOWSKY Consumer Advocate

717-783-5048 (Fax) 717-783-7152

May 7, 2010

Re:

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

V.

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Docket No. R-2010-2161694

## Dear Consumer Colleague:

On March 31, 2010, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL or Company) filed a request with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to increase the level of rates that it charges for providing electric distribution service to its customers. PPL provides electric service to approximately 1.4 million residential, commercial and industrial customers in over 29 counties throughout Pennsylvania.

If PPL's rate increase request is granted, PPL will be permitted to recover an estimated increase of \$114.7 million in its annual operating revenues. PPL proposes to allocate the total requested increase of \$114.7 million to only the residential customer class. The total bill for an average residential customer would increase about 5 percent, or \$7.41 per month. As part of its requested increase, PPL has proposed an increase in the residential customer charge. If approved, the monthly customer charge would increase from \$8.44 to \$15.40.

During the next several months, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) will represent the interests of consumers and will participate fully in this case. We have retained expert witnesses to review PPL's filing, including all costs and expenses claimed. We will review the basis of PPL's claimed increase, including operation and maintenance expenses, capital expenditures, taxes and the allocation of costs among customer classes.

We have filed a Formal Complaint, and have asked the PUC to suspend the proposed rate increase, pending a thorough investigation of PPL's request. We asked the PUC to hold evidentiary hearings to examine the reasonableness of the Company's current rates and its proposed increase in rates.

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This office will also request that the PUC schedule public input hearings, if you desire an opportunity to express your views on the proposed rate increase. Requests for a public input hearing will be granted if the PUC determines that there is substantial interest. If you want a hearing in your area, please contact the OCA as soon as possible

If the PUC schedules such hearings, we will notify you of the date, time and location so you will have an opportunity to come forward and express your views on PPL's proposed increase.

The Office of Consumer Advocate will be represented in this proceeding by Tanya J. McCloskey, Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate and Aron J. Beatty, Assistant Consumer Advocate.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Consumer Liaison, Heather Yoder at (717) 783-5048 or toll-free at 800-684-6560. Also, if you are aware of any relevant information regarding PPL's proposed rate increase or quality of service, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Irwin A. Popowsky Consumer Advocate

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