

# CHARGE Conference Call

January 6, 2011 – 9:30 a.m.

Call-in number: 1-866-618-6746 and Access Code: 6060145

## Topics for Discussion

### 1. EGS Marketing Activities

- PUC adopted final order on November 4, 2010, which is available at the following link:  
<http://www.puc.state.pa.us/general/ConsolidatedCaseView.aspx?Docket=M-2010-2185981>
- Proposed rulemaking order is being prepared by Staff for January 2011 Public Meeting
- Staff is closely monitoring EGS marketing activities to: 1) immediately resolve serious concerns; 2) refer matters as necessary to prosecutory staff for appropriate handling; and 3) prepare report for PUC due in April 2011 about the use of unlicensed independent contractors by licensed EGSs
- Based on feedback staff is receiving, EGSs should be particularly mindful of ensuring that agents do not hold themselves out as representatives of the EDCs

### 2. Supplier Consolidated Billing Implementation

- EDEWG document summarizing issues that need to be addressed for full implementation of supplier consolidated billing was circulated on August 25; and Blue Star provided responses based on Illinois experience which were distributed on October 25
- Both documents are available at links next to the agenda for the October 28 call at  
[http://www.puc.state.pa.us/electric/electric\\_CompertitiveMarketOversight.aspx](http://www.puc.state.pa.us/electric/electric_CompertitiveMarketOversight.aspx)
- Currently PPL has an interim structure in place allowing Blue Star to implement SCB
- Staff advised on the last call that it is evaluating supplier consolidated billing and will be contacting EDCs and EGS in order to obtain some field data and plan out the appropriate course going forward
  - Concern was expressed that progress already made by EDEWG not be lost in any process going forward; staff acknowledged that future work would be coordinated with EDEWG
  - Concern was raised that EDCs were required to provide for supplier consolidated billing in the initial restructuring implementation plans; staff advised that the existence and

status of those mechanisms would be a primary part of Staff's discussion with EDCs on this issue

- Staff also noted that any interested party is free to formally petition the Commission on this issue in the event that the CHARGE process is deemed too slow
- Staff update: further discussion expected during January 20, 2011 call

### **3. Eligible Customer List**

- PUC adopted final order on November 12, 2010, which is available at the following link: <http://www.puc.state.pa.us/general/ConsolidatedCaseView.aspx?Docket=M-2010-2183412>
- OCA has filed Petition for Review with Commonwealth Court; order remains in effect unless it is stayed and/or overturned on appeal. OCA advised that the decision to seek a stay is under consideration. Staff will alert CHARGE of any developments regarding a stay of the ECL Order

### **4. Estimated State Tax Amount on Bills**

- Question has arisen about whether the presentation of "estimated total state taxes" on residential bills is required for generation charges of EGS as there is no standard treatment among EGSs
- Staff has determined that EDC tax components are Capital Stock, Property Tax-Local and PURTA, State Unemployment Compensation, PA State Income Tax, and Gross Receipts Tax.
- Staff is conducting further review of statute and regulations to offer guidance to EGSs on this issue; interested in feedback from group on value of having information on bills about taxes (other than GRT) paid by EGSs
- Based on recent questions that have been raised, Staff intends to discuss during January 20, 2011 call

### **5. Last-In Enrollments (Placeholder)**

- Spreadsheet was previously circulated to show how EDCs handle multiple enrollments for the same customer before the 16-day cut-off date
- Group has generally discussed value of standardizing enrollment process going forward; benefits of standardization were identified; and issue will remain on the list for further discussion

## **6. Mixed Meter – EGS Authority**

- Questions have been raised about whether EGSs must have authority to serve residential customers when a residential customer is served as part of a mixed meter situation
- While the PUC expects EGSs to seek amendments to licensing authority in these situations, Staff is continuing to internally discuss language to carve out exemptions so that these EGSs may not have to comply with certain inapplicable residential customer protection requirements in Chapters 54 and 56
- Staff is continuing to review advise from Commission’s Chief Counsel received on December 20, 2010 and will report to CHARGE in more detail on the January 20, 2011 call

## **7. Displaying Prices on PAPowerSwitch**

- Suggestion has been made for consistency in the way pricing is displayed on PAPowerSwitch; major concern is that in some instances, an introductory price rather than an average price is being displayed
- Group has discussed possible remedies, noting the difficulty of making apples-to-apples comparisons due to variations in the components that are included in EGS prices and suggesting that a working group may need to be formed to develop clear guidelines
- A short-term solution to the use of an introductory price would be if PAPowerSwitch can accommodate showing both that price and the price that will be in effect after the introductory period
- Staff is consulting with PAPowerSwitch vendor to determine feasibility of enabling suppliers to show an introductory price and the subsequent price

## **8. Budget Billing for Variable-Priced Products (Placeholder)**

- Group has discussed whether it is appropriate or necessary to require EGSs to offer budget billing option to customers in connection with variable-priced products
- Staff appreciates the feedback and will consider it in providing a recommendation to the PUC

## **9. New Issues/Questions**

- Any new issues or questions about issues previously discussed on CHARGE calls should be submitted to [ra-ocmo@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-ocmo@state.pa.us)

#### **10. Old Agendas/Recaps**

- All agendas and recaps are posted on the OCMO page of the website along with various other documents that have been distributed or relied upon during CHARGE discussions, at the following link - [http://www.puc.state.pa.us/electric/electric\\_CompetitiveMarketOversight.aspx](http://www.puc.state.pa.us/electric/electric_CompetitiveMarketOversight.aspx)

#### **11. CHARGE Distribution List**

- To be added to the CHARGE distribution list, please send an email to [ra-ocmo@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-ocmo@state.pa.us)

#### **12. CHARGE Contact List**

- Contact list is on website at the following link:

[http://www.puc.state.pa.us/electric/electric\\_CompetitiveMarketOversight.aspx](http://www.puc.state.pa.us/electric/electric_CompetitiveMarketOversight.aspx)

- Please send contact information or updates to [ra-ocmo@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-ocmo@state.pa.us); purpose of this list is to enable stakeholders to contact one another directly to resolve issues and is separate from email distribution list

#### **13. Meeting Schedule for Six Months of 2011**

- January 6, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
- January 20, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
- February 3, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
- February 17, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
- March 3, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
- March 24, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
- April 7, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
- April 21, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
- May 12, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
- June 2, 2011, 9:30 a.m.
- June 23, 2011, 9:30 a.m.