

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

**Energy Efficiency and Conservation
Program**

Public Meeting – January 15, 2009
2069887-LAW*
Docket No. M-2008-2069887

STATEMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN TYRONE J. CHRISTY

Today the Commission is taking yet another significant step toward implementing a comprehensive Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program for Pennsylvania. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program offers the most meaningful tool available to the Commission to cushion the rate shock that likely will occur as rate caps continue to expire in additional utility service territories in the Commonwealth over the next 23 months. As electric rate caps continue to expire, Pennsylvania customers increasingly will be exposed to higher electric prices that are to large extent beyond our current ability to control given federal jurisdiction over the wholesale power market. I commend the General Assembly and Governor for championing the passage of Act 129, and extend my appreciation to our staff for their hard work in crafting the order that we are approving today in the short amount of time available to us under the requirements of Act 129.

I have some concerns regarding the separate approval processes that the Commission is establishing by this order for contracts with conservation service providers (CSPs) and for the plans that will be filed by the electric distribution companies (EDCs) beginning July 1 of this year. In contrast to the abbreviated staff review process being established for CSP contracts, proposed EDC plans will be reviewed in evidentiary proceedings assigned to an ALJ. Because CSP contracts may constitute a large portion of an EDC's plan, I believe that it may be better to review proposed CSP contracts in conjunction with the EDC's plan rather than separately. However, if the separate review procedures that we are establishing today prove to be unworkable, we can revisit the procedures in the future.

DATE

TYRONE J. CHRISTY, VICE CHAIRMAN