PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

Investigation of Pennsylvania's Retail Electricity Market Public Meeting July 28, 2011 2237952-DIR Docket No. I-2011-2237952

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN ROBERT F. POWELSON

I am pleased today that the Commission is taking another step towards completion of its Investigation into Pennsylvania's retail electricity market. The Commission's goal is to make Pennsylvania the most competitive electricity market in the country. I believe the Order being voted on today provides an excellent roadmap for the Commission's next steps toward achieving that goal.

I encourage all interested parties to participate in the second phase of this proceeding and to devote as many resources as possible to ensure the best possible outcome. I wish to stress that I have not made my mind up as to how to reach the directives of today's Order, noting, however, that as I have said before, *status quo* is <u>not</u> an option. I expect all parties to interact in a cooperative manner to reach reasonable solutions that are in the public interest.

Lastly, today's Order separates Phase 2 of the investigation into two parts: intermediate goals and long-range steps. I want to commend the Commission's Office of Competitive Market Oversight for developing this framework for the second phase of the Investigation. In my view, it well represents the best way to address the issues before us by allowing the Commission to quickly tackle the areas clearly allowed by Chapter 28 while developing a framework for recommending Legislative action on those areas outside our current authority.

DATE: July 28, 2011

ROBERT F. POWELSON CHAIRMAN