

May 14, 2015

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Petition of PPL Electric Utility Corporation R-2015-2469275

Attention Filing Center,

Please find enclosed the *Amended Petition to Intervene by The Alliance for Solar Choice* and the accompanying *Certificate of Service*, filed electronically with the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission May 14, 2015.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

Amanda Vanega

Policy Research Manager

Amarda Parega

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BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission :

:

v. : R-2015-2469275

Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation

AMENDED PETITION TO INTERVENE BY THE ALLIANCE FOR SOLAR CHOICE

The Alliance for Solar Choice (TASC), through the undersigned local counsel on May 1, 2015 filed and served with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC" or "Commission") to a petition to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding. At the Pre-hearing Conference in Harrisburg on May 7, 2015, in response to PPL's opposition to the Petition to Intervene, counsel for TASC offered to provide additional information regarding TASC members' business activity in the PPL service territory. Pursuant to the Amended Scheduling Order issued in this matter on May 7, 2015 counsel for TASC request consideration of this Amended Petition to Intervene. The following paragraphs of this Amended Petition are identical to the original Petition to Intervene except that: Paragraph 1 is shortened to reflect the more specific information contained in new paragraphs 1a, 1b and 1c; and, the second and third sentences of paragraph 6 are rearranged for better clarity. A new Verification Statement has been added. In support of its Petition to Intervene, TASC states as follows:

1. The Petitioner is an organization founded by the largest solar rooftop companies in the nation. TASC members provide services to the vast majority of the rooftop solar

market. Its members include: Demeter Power, SolarCity, Solar Universe, Sungevity, Sunrun, and Verengo.

1a. TASC member SolarCity has established an operations center in Montgomery County, located at 2562 Boulevard of the Generals, Norristown PA. While the actual office location is not in the PPL service territory, this office serves a broad geographic area including parts of Montgomery County that are located in the PPL's service territory. See, https://www.pplelectric.com/at-your-service/electric-rates-and-rules/remsi/map-of-ppl-service-area.aspx.

1b. TASC member SolarCity has existing customers located in the cities of Allentown and Bethlehem, and the Boroughs of Dauphin, East Greenville, Elverson, Honey Brook, Pennsburg, Quarryville, Richlandtown, and Telford. Parts or all of these municipalities are located within the PPL service territory.

1c. TASC member SolarCity plans to continue to offer services to electric customers in the PPL service territory. It recently issued a public statement of its intent to offer solar electric services in Southeast Pennsylvania, an area that includes PPL's Lancaster and Lehigh regions. In a press release, issued on March 12, 2015, SolarCity states that it offers loans and new power purchase agreement options for homeowners in SE Pennsylvania who wish to install solar on their homes. The initial offering will be to customers of PECO, but SolarCity's press release states that it, "hopes to expand its service area further later this year." This press release also lists SolarCity's license to operate in Pennsylvania as: PA License # HICPA077343. This press release is available at: http://www.solarcity.com/newsroom/press/solarcity-brings-america%E2%80%99s-most-affordable-solar-loan-southeastern-pennsylvania.

2. Petitioners are represented by:

David R. Wooley, Esq. Of Counsel Keyes, Fox & Weidman LLP 436 14th Street, Suite 1305 Oakland, CA 94612 Tel: (510) 314-8207

E-Mail: dwooley@kfwlaw.com

David Wooley is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar, (Attorney ID Number 22378) on inactive status, is a member in good standing of the New York and New Jersey bars, and has, through local counsel, filed a motion for leave to appear *pro hac vice* in this proceeding.

Jacob J. Schlesinger, Esq. Associate Keyes, Fox & Wiedman LLP 1400 16th St. 16 Market Square, Suite 400 Denver, CO 80202 Tel: (970) 531-2525

Email: jschlesinger@kfwlaw.com

Jacob Schlesinger is a member in good standing of the Bar of the State of Colorado and has, through local counsel filed a motion for leave to appear *pro hac vice* in this proceeding.

Joseph Otis Minott, Esq. Local Counsel & Counsel of Record for TASC 135 South 19th Street, Suite 300 Philadelphia PA, 19103 joe_minott@cleanair.org 215-567-4004 Ext. 116

Joseph Minott is a member in good standing of the Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Attorney ID Number 36463).

- 3. On March 31, 2015, PPL Electric Utilities submitted a general base rate filing for electric operations. In its filing PPL proposed to substantially increase fixed charges for residential and commercial customers as well as make other changes to its tariff design.
- 4. TASC is an industry association of businesses whose members provide a variety of services to residential and commercial electric customers in Pennsylvania, including behind the meter rooftop photovoltaic systems and power storage systems. TASC's office is located at 595 Market Street, 29th Floor, San Francisco, California 94105.
- 5. TASC and its members have a direct, immediate, substantial and distinct interest in the PPL general base rate filing for electric operations. PPL has proposed to increase fixed charges for residential and general service customers, which are the principal customer base for TASC members' solar energy services. Increases in fixed charges reduce the economic benefit of investment in customer-sited solar generation and battery storage, and will tend to reduce the market for such systems. TASC has participated in numerous public utility commission proceedings on the subject of fixed charges in other states, including proceedings in Arizona, California, Washington, Hawaii, Wisconsin, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Virginia.
- 5. TASC has preliminarily reviewed the PPL rate filing and intends to examine in this proceeding whether the request to increase fixed charges to residential and commercial customers will result in unjust and unreasonable rates for residential and commercial customers. TASC plans to challenge aspects of the cost basis for the

increased fixed charges and its impact on on-site renewable energy development and associated storage technologies.

- 6. TASC is also concerned that increases in fixed charges could undermine the market for customer-sited storage and renewable generation investment. Solar photovoltaics, storage, energy efficiency and other forms of distributed energy resources provide a wide range of benefits both to individual customers and to the system as a whole. Increases in fixed costs will tend to suppress investment in these technologies (e.g. harm the payback levels and financial returns for on-site generation) and in the long term lead to higher costs for all customers (e.g. higher distribution, generation and transmission costs). This impact could run counter to a wide range of clean energy policies of this Commission and of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 7. Furthermore, TASC has a general interest in this rate proceeding because PPL's retail rate schedule determines both the value of the kWh that a residential or commercial solar customer avoids purchasing and the value of the kWh bill credit that the same customer receives for any excess generation. Thus, any change to the volumetric component of a rate could impact the cost savings that can be achieved through onsite generation. This could substantially impact the market for TASC's members and could devalue substantial investments already made by self-generating customers.
- 8. TASC is also concerned about proposed language changes to the Net Metering Tariff, particularly language with eliminates references to retail rates as the basis for net metering credits. Currently we are uncertain about the intent behind and the meaning of the proposed change and may wish to address this matter in briefs or by witness testimony.

WHEREFORE, the Alliance For Solar Choice respectfully requests that the

Commission enter an order granting it full status as an intervener in this proceeding with active party status.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Otis Minott, Esq.

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May 14, 2015

VERIFICATION

I, John Stanton, on behalf of The Alliance for Solar Choice, hereby state that the facts contained in the foregoing pleading are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, that I am duly authorized to make this Verification, and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this mater. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to penalties of 10 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: May 14, 2015

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

RE: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Docket R-2015-2469275

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below:

Dated this 14th day of May 2015.

SERVICE BY FIRST CLASS U.S. MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID

(eServed as a courtesy, if email available)

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