

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PA 17120**

Smart Meter Technology

**Public Meeting – September 3, 2015
2092655-OCM
Docket No. M-2009-2092655**

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER PAMELA A. WITMER**

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) today is the recommendation from the Commission's Office of Competitive Market Oversight (OCMO) for electric distribution company (EDC) development of a standardized solution for a secure web portal for the acquisition of certain types of data. The directives outlined in the order will allow third parties such as electric generation suppliers (EGSs) and conservation service providers (CSPs) to access historical interval usage (HIU) and billing quality interval use (BQIU) data.

The creation of a web portal is another important tool that will further enhance Pennsylvania's competitive retail electric market; however, while I firmly believe that smart meter technology and data will undoubtedly benefit consumers, those benefits are matched by a responsibility to adequately protect consumers' sensitive information, particularly in the types of business-to-business data transactions at issue here. Advancements in technology dictate that cybersecurity is and will continue to be critically important, not only to the consumers concerned about their personally identifying information but also to businesses concerned with the breach of proprietary data.

The estimated annual cost of cybercrime to the world economy is \$445 billion annually—almost 1 percent of global income.¹ The scope and breadth of potential problems cybercrime can cause make it imperative that we prepare for and prevent cyber attacks as best we can. I encourage all of our regulated entities to protect their critical assets and information as all technologies evolve, and to highlight this issue in relevant proceedings before the Commission, such as in base rate cases.

DATE: September 3, 2015


**PAMELA A. WITMER
COMMISSIONER**

¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/report-cybercrime-and-espionage-costs-445-billion-annually/2014/06/08/8995291c-ecce-11e3-9f5c-9075d5508f0a_story.html (Last accessed: Sept. 2, 2015)