

An Exelon Company

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May 16, 2018

#### VIA eFILING

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

#### Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. PECO Energy Company Docket No. R-2018-3000164

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed please find, in the above-referenced matter, PECO Energy Company's Answer to the Petition to Intervene of the Retail Energy Supply Association.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

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W. Craig Williams

Enclosures

c: Per Certificate of Service (w/encls.)

## BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY	:	
COMMISSION	:	
	:	
V.	:	DOCKET NO. R-2018-3000164
PECO ENERGY COMPANY	:	
	:	

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify and affirm that I have this day served a copy of the PECO Energy

# Company's Answer to the Petition to Intervene of the Retail Energy Supply Association on

the following persons in the manner specified in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa.

Code § 1.54:

## VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL, eROOM AND/OR FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Counsel for PECO Energy Company

Dated: May 16, 2018

#### BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION	:	
v. PECO ENERGY COMPANY	:	Docket No. R-2018-3000164
	:	

# ANSWER OF PECO ENERGY COMPANY TO THE RETAIL ENERGY SUPPLY ASSOCIATION'S PETITION TO INTERVENE

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.66, PECO Energy Company ("PECO" or the "Company") submits this Answer to the Petition to Intervene filed by the Retail Energy Supply Association ("RESA") on May 4, 2018 in the above-referenced docket. As explained below, RESA is attempting to interject into this case, which is statutorily limited in subject matter and time,<sup>1</sup> alleged interests that should not be considered in this electric base rate proceeding. These issues include the "billing relationship" between electric distribution companies ("EDCs") and their customers which RESA is already addressing in the Supplier Consolidated Billing ("SCB") *en banc* proceeding initiated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (the "Commission").<sup>2</sup>

The Commission's regulations provide express authority to the Administrative Law Judges to limit the participation of intervenors.<sup>3</sup> PECO therefore requests that the Administrative Law Judges exercise their authority to limit the scope of RESA's intervention to issues that are

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See 66 Pa.C.S. § 1308(d) (defining a "general rate increase" and setting a statutory timeline of seven months for the issuance of a final order).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Notice of En Banc Hearing on Supplier Consolidated Billing, Docket No. M-2018-2645254 (Notice issued Mar. 27, 2018). RESA filed comments and attachments in the SCB proceedings totaling 148 pages. See Comments on Behalf of the Retail Energy Supply Association, Docket No. M-2018-2645254 (filed May 4, 2018).
<sup>3</sup> 52 Pa. Code § 5.75 (providing that the presiding officer "may, if found to be appropriate, authorize limited participation" by an intervenor).

properly addressed in the context of this base rate proceeding and thereby facilitate the creation of a complete and well-developed evidentiary record within the statutory timeline imposed by 66 Pa.C.S. §1308(d).

# I. RELEVANT BACKGROUND

On March 29, 2018, PECO filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("Commission") Tariff Electric – Pa. P.U.C. No. 6 ("Tariff No. 6"). By Order issued April 19, 2018, the Commission instituted a formal investigation to determine the lawfulness, justness and reasonableness of PECO's existing and proposed rates, rules and regulations. Accordingly, Tariff No. 6 was suspended by operation of law until December 28, 2018.<sup>4</sup>

On May 4, 2018, RESA filed its Petition to Intervene, explaining that it is a trade group of twenty retail energy suppliers operating throughout the United States.<sup>5</sup> RESA identified the following specific issues in its Petition to Intervene: "(1) the proposed Electric Vehicle Direct Current Fast Charger Pilot Rider; (2) PECO's initiatives to improve the direct billing relationship it has with its distribution customers; (3) PECO's proposed modifications to net metering eligibility; (4) PECO's proposed allocation of costs to distribution functions that are related to the provision of default service and should be removed from distribution changes; and (5) proposals to streamline the interconnection process for distributed generation technologies."<sup>6</sup> RESA also generally asserted concerns with PECO's alleged efforts to use "ratepayer funded resources to offer value-added, generation-related products and services that are more appropriately offered in the competitive market" and a need to analyze alleged "allocation of

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*, p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Order, *Pa. P.U.C. v. PECO Energy Company*, Docket No. R-2018-3000164 (Order entered Apr. 19, 2018). In accordance with the Commission's April 19 Order and Section 53.71 of the Commission's regulations, 52 Pa. Code § 53.71, PECO filed a tariff supplement suspending Tariff No. 6. *See* Supplement No. 1 to Tariff Electric – Pa. PUC No. 6 Suspending Original Tariff No. 6 Until December 28, 2018, Docket No. R-2018-3000164 (filed April 27, 2018).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Petition to Intervene of Retail Energy Supply Association, p. 1 ("RESA Petition to Intervene").

costs to distribution functions that are related to the provision of default service . . . to ensure that the cost allocation does not negatively impact the ability of EGSs to present competitive products to consumers in PECO's service territory."<sup>7</sup>

On May 8, 2018, a Prehearing Conference was convened by Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge Christopher P. Pell and Administrative Law Judge F. Joseph Brady (collectively, the "ALJs"). At the Prehearing Conference, the ALJs established a deadline of May 16, 2018 for responses to RESA's Petition to Intervene, among other filings.

### II. ANSWER

- 1. Admitted.
- 2. Admitted.
- 3. Admitted.

4. Denied as stated. The language in 52 Pa. Code §§ 1.8, 5.72(a)(2) and 5.72(a)(3) speaks for itself.

5. Denied in part. It is admitted that RESA's interest in PECO's proposed Electric Vehicle Direct Current Fast Charger Pilot Rider, the allocation of costs between PECO's distribution and default service functions, the Company's proposed changes to existing net metering provisions, and the testimony of PECO witnesses discussing PECO's improvements in the distributed generation interconnection process provide a legitimate basis for intervention by RESA. It is denied that RESA's remaining asserted interests provide a valid basis for RESA to intervene in this proceeding for the following reasons.

"Direct Billing Relationship" and "Value-Added" Products. The Commission has initiated an *en banc* proceeding to specifically consider SCB and its relationship to other billing

<sup>7</sup> Id.

options and new products for customers.<sup>8</sup> In its 148-page filing in the *en banc* proceeding, RESA presented its view that "implementation and subsequent innovation provided by SCB will address the absence of a **direct relationship** between an EGS and its customers" and raised various concerns regarding products offered by EDCs, including PECO, that RESA believes should only be offered by electric generation suppliers ("EGSs").<sup>9</sup> RESA also made suggestions to the Commission "to ensure that a full and complete record is developed" in the SCB proceedings.<sup>10</sup>

RESA's SCB comments underscore exactly why RESA's alleged "initiatives to improve the direct billing relationship [PECO] has with its distribution customers" and its vague "concerns" that PECO is offering "value-added" products are impermissible justifications for intervention in this proceeding. RESA is *already* seeking to address the "direct billing relationship" between EDCs and their customers and the types of programs that EDCs and EGSs should be offering in the SBC proceeding, as well as arguing that the SCB proceeding is the appropriate place for the Commission to develop a full record that includes those issues. Examining the "billing relationship" and issues related to "valued-added services" with a smaller group of stakeholders and a single EDC is likely to lead to results inconsistent with the *en banc* proceeding, especially in light of the time limitations of Section 1308(d), and the ALJs should therefore preclude these topics from RESA's participation in this proceeding.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See March 27, 2018 Notice of *En Banc* Hearing on Implementation of Supplier Consolidated Billing, Docket No. M-2018-2645254.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> RESA Comments, p. 1 (discussing "direct relationship") (emphasis added); pp. 9-11 (discussing offerings by FirstEnergy utilities), & p. 14 (discussing PECO's prepaid service offering).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> *Id.*, pp. 3-4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> *Cf.* Opinion and Order, *Pa. P.U.C. v. Duquesne Light Company*, Docket No. R-2013-2372129 (Order entered April 23, 2014) (adopting recommendation of administrative law judge to sever tariff provisions proposed by several NRG affiliates from an electric distribution rate case proceeding after finding that "there simply was insufficient time to render a thorough and reasoned decision on these issues within the regulatory time constraints inherent in a Section 1308(d) base rate proceeding").

#### "Proposals to Streamline the Interconnection Process for Distributed Generation

*Technologies.*" As described in the Direct Testimony of Mr. Schlesinger (PECO Statement No. 8), the Company is proposing certain clarifying changes to net metering provisions. Mr. Schlesinger also described PECO's fulfillment of its commitment to revise terms and conditions for the interconnection of customer-sited distributed generation in accordance with the settlement of its 2015 electric base rate proceedings and improvements PECO has already implemented to streamline the distributed generation interconnection process (which are also discussed by Mr. Innocenzo in PECO Statement No. 1).

PECO has not made any "proposals" to further streamline the interconnection process for distributed generation in this proceeding. To the extent that RESA is seeking to introduce new proposals, PECO does not believe that such interests provide a valid basis for intervention in this distribution base rate proceeding. The challenges of creating a complete and well-developed evidentiary record on the issues that are properly within the scope of this base rate proceeding should not be heightened by interjecting entirely new (and as yet unidentified) proposals relating to distributed generation that will not receive proper consideration under a litigation schedule that was not designed or intended to accommodate them.

6. Denied in part. For the reasons set forth above, several of RESA's alleged interests are not within the scope of this proceeding in light of other Commission proceedings and therefore do not provide a basis for its request to intervene.

7. Denied in part. For the reasons set forth above, several of RESA's alleged interests are not within the scope of this proceeding in light of other Commission proceedings and therefore do not provide a basis for its request to intervene.

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8. Denied in part. For the reasons set forth above, several of RESA's alleged interests are not within the scope of this proceeding in light of other Commission proceedings and therefore do not provide a basis for its request to intervene.

9. Denied in part. For the reasons set forth above, several of RESA's alleged interests are not within the scope of this proceeding in light of other Commission proceedings and therefore do not provide a basis for its request to intervene.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, PECO Energy Company requests that the ALJs exercise their authority to limit the scope of RESA's intervention to (i) PECO's proposed Electric Vehicle Direct Current Fast Charger Pilot Rider; (ii) the allocation of costs between PECO's distribution and default service functions; (iii) PECO's proposed changes to net metering tariff provisions; and (iv) the Company's fulfilment of commitments made in the settlement of its 2015 electric base rate proceeding concerning the interconnection of distributed generation and other existing interconnection improvements discussed in the direct testimony of Mr. Richard Schlesinger (PECO Statement No. 8) and Mr. Michael Innocenzo (PECO Statement No. 1).

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