

**OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P. O. Box 8464
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8464**

September 18, 2009

Bureau of Regulatory Counsel

Telephone 717-787-7060
Telecopier 717-783-7911

Honorable James McNulty
Secretary, Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: Joint Petition of Metropolitan Edison Company,
Pennsylvania Electric Company and Pennsylvania Power Company
For Approval of Smart Meter Technology Procurement and
Installation Plan PUC Docket No. M-2009-2123950

Dear Secretary McNulty:

Please find attached for electronic filing the Petition to Intervene of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection in the above referenced matter. Copies have been served on all parties listed on the enclosed Certificate of Service.

Sincerely,

/s/ Scott Perry

Scott Perry
Assistant Counsel

cc: Service List

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Joint Petition of Metropolitan Edison Company, :
Pennsylvania Electric Company and : **Docket No. M-2009-2123950**
Pennsylvania Power Company for Approval :
of Smart Meter Technology Procurement and :
Installation Plan :

**PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection (the “Department”) files this Petition to Intervene in the above referenced matter pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.71 and 5.72. In support of its Petition to Intervene in the Joint Petition of Metropolitan Edison Company, Pennsylvania Electric Company and Pennsylvania Power Company (“First Energy”) for Approval of its Smart Meter Technology Procurement and Installation Plan (“Smart Meter Plan”) the Department avers as follows:

1. Pursuant to Act 129 of 2008 and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission’s (“Commission”) Smart Meter Procurement and Installation Order (“Implementation Order”) at Docket No. M-2009-2092655, on August 14, 2009, First Energy filed its Petition for Approval of its Smart Meter Plan with the Commission.
2. First Energy proposes to use the entire 15 year period allowed by Act 129 to fully deploy smart meters in its service territories. Petition at 5. First Energy also proposes to use the first 24 months of the 30 month grace period to develop a business plan culminating in the submission of a deployment plan. *Id.* This delayed implementation schedule will unnecessarily deprive First Energy’s customers of the benefits of smart meter technology.

3. The Department is an agency of the Commonwealth and is entitled to intervene as of right under 52 Pa. Code § 5.72(b).

4. The Department administers several energy and environmental protection programs established by state law that provide the Department with a right or interests of such nature that participation of the Department is in the public interest. 52 P.S. § 52.72(a)(1),(3).

5. The Department is the primary agency under the Governor's jurisdiction charged with managing energy matters. The Department performs and administers the functions of the Pennsylvania Energy Office. 71 P.S. § 1340.504(d). The Department also has the powers and duties previously vested in the Governor's Energy Council by the Building Energy Conservation Act, 35 P.S. §§ 7201.101 *et seq.*, and the Energy Conservation and Assistance Act, 62 P.S. §§ 3011 *et seq.* 71 P.S. § 1340.504(a)-(b).

6. An effective smart meter plan and the time sensitive pricing programs smart meters are required to support can result in significant savings for consumers, reduce grid congestion, and promote grid reliability. These beneficial aspects of effective smart meter plans directly affect the Department's interests as administrator of the Pennsylvania Energy Office.

7. The Department administers several provisions of the Alternative Energy Investment Act ("AEPS") Act and is to work cooperatively with the Commission to monitor the performance of all aspects of AEPS. 73 P.S. § 1648.7(c). Smart meters and the time sensitive pricing plans they promote encourage the use of demand-side management technologies and practices as defined by section 1 of AEPS. See, 73 P.S. § 1648.1. These demand-side management technologies and practices have the potential to create Tier II alternative energy credits and affect the Department's duties under AEPS.

8. The Department administers the Air Pollution Control Act (35 P.S. § 4001 *et seq.*) and the Clean Streams Law (35 P.S. § 691.1 *et seq.*). The purpose of these statutes is to protect and restore Pennsylvania's air and water resources. A properly designed and implemented smart meter plan and the time sensitive pricing plans they promote can reduce fossil fuel consumption, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve water quality.

9. Individually and collectively, the Department's statutory duties create an interest that will be directly affected by this proceeding but are not adequately represented by existing participants and are of such a nature that participation of the Department is in the public interest. Thus, Department has a right to intervene under 52 P.S. § 5.72(a)(3).

WHEREFORE, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Petition to Intervene.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Scott Perry

George Jugovic (Pa. No. 39586)
Assistant Counsel
gjugovic@state.pa.us
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Environmental Protection
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 1522-4745
412-442-4262
412-442-4274 (Fax)

Scott Perry (Pa. No. 86327)
Assistant Counsel
scperry@state.pa.us

Aspassia V. Staevska (Pa. No. 94739)
Assistant Counsel
astaevska@state.pa.us

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Environmental Protection
RCSOB, 9th Floor
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301
717-787-7060
717-783-7911 (Fax)

Dated: September 18, 2009

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VERIFICATION

I, Daniel Griffiths, hereby state that the facts above set forth in the Petition to Intervene of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

/s/ Daniel Griffiths

Daniel Griffiths
Deputy Secretary
Office of Energy and Technology Deployment
Department of Environmental Protection

Dated: September 18, 2009

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

SERVICE BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

Honorable Susan D. Colwell
Administrative Law Judge
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P. O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Kathy J. Kolich, Esquire
FirstEnergy Service Company
76 South Main Street
Akron, OH 44309

Harry S. Geller, Esquire
John C. Gerhard, Esquire
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1414

Lauren M. Lepkoski, Esquire
Daniel G. Asmus, Esquire
Office of Small Business Advocate
1102 Commerce Building
300 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Charles Daniel Shields, Esquire
Carrie B. Wright, Esquire
Office of Trial Staff
Public Utility Commission
P O Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Charis Mincavage, Esquire
Barry A. Naum, Esquire
Shelby A. Linton-Keddie, Esquire
NcNees Wallace & Nurick
100 Pine Street
P O Box 1166
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1166

Bradley A. Bingaman, Esquire
FirstEnergy Service Company
2800 Pottsville Pike
P O Box 160001
Reading, PA 19612-6001

Candis A. Tunilo, Esquire
Aron J. Beatty, Esquire
Tanya J. McCloskey, Esquire
Office of Consumer Advocate
555 Walnut Street - 5th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

Renardo L. Hicks, Esquire
Michael Gruin, Esquire
Stevens & Lee
16th Floor
17 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Scott Perry

Scott Perry (Pa. No. 86327)
Assistant Counsel
scperry@state.pa.us

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