

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105**

**Petition of Duquesne Light
Company for Approval to Modify its
Smart Meter Procurement and
Installation Plan**

**Public Meeting March 2, 2017
2497267-OSA
Docket No. P-2015-2497267**

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT F. POWELSON

Before the Public Utility Commission (Commission) for consideration is Duquesne Light Company's (Duquesne) Petition (Petition) seeking approval to modify its Smart Meter Procurement and Installation Plan. The Petition seeks to implement changes to the approved smart meter plan for the purpose of enhancing outage communication and voltage monitoring capabilities, and to recover the costs associated with those changes through the Smart Meter Charge (SMC).

In its Petition, Duquesne proposes to add an Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS), consistent with Commission guidance in our Smart Meter Implementation Order.¹ Duquesne's proposed ADMS project will consist of an Outage Management System (OMS) and a Distribution Management System (DMS). The OMS component of the project will use Duquesne's newly installed smart meters to provide more accurate and timely outage monitoring, outage restoration, and outage communication to customers. The DMS component of the project will enhance Duquesne's voltage monitoring capability, allowing the company to reduce demand on its system.

The functionalities provided by the ADMS project will: (1) permit Duquesne to improve reliability, (2) provide more competitive opportunities for customers to save money, (3) likely decrease electric consumption, and (4) save money for both Duquesne and its customers. Recognizing the value of these benefits, I fully support the adoption of the type of functionalities proposed by Duquesne which utilize the capabilities offered by smart meter technology. These types of innovative functionalities will serve not only to enhance our smart meter infrastructure in the Commonwealth, but will also result in significant cost savings for both the utility and its customers.

As the Recommended Decision of Administrative Law Judge Katrina L. Dunderdale highlights, the decision here today to deny cost recovery for the ADMS through the SMC is not a Commission denial of Duquesne's ADMS project. Rather, we encourage Duquesne to move forward with fostering the type of innovative functionalities proposed in the ADMS project and to propose cost recovery for such projects through a future base rate case.

Date: March 2, 2017



**ROBERT F. POWELSON
COMMISSIONER**

¹ Smart Meter Implementation Order entered June 24, 2009 at M-2009-2092655