

Three Mile Island Alert, Inc.

Statement of Eric Epstein

December 1, 2009

PPL should implement a program for senior citizens on fixed incomes who will be forced into a “hardship class.”

PPL should implement a Green Weekend Rate for non-profits.

PPL should allow all residential customers to participate in a Time of Use tariff.

(Harrisburg, PA) - “PPL Electric’s 35% rate increase is not in the ‘public’s interest’, and will expose residential customers to additional costs without improving the quality or reliability of their electric service.”

“PPL has not adopted provisions for senior citizens on fixed incomes even though PPL reported over a \$1 billion profit on \$6.5 billion in revenue in 2008. PPL could not muster the time or resources to evaluate, create, and implement a program for senior citizens. PPL’s lack of interest will likely result in the creation of hardship class of seniors who will have to choose between food or health care or electricity.”

“Additionally, PPL has no plan to stem the rising tide of shutoffs and terminations. Last year PPL set records in consumer cruelty. In the first eight months of 2008 PPL cut electricity to 28,561 customers, which was an 111% increase over the number of customers whose power was shut off during the same period in 2007. The statewide average is 24%.”

“On November 19, 2009, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) approved two settlements with PPL Electric Utilities Inc. that included \$471,000 in monetary penalties and contributions to low-income programs, improvements to customer service procedures and training, but ended two informal investigations into PPL termination practices.”

“On August 8, 2008, PPL terminated electric service to a residence in the City of Lancaster. A fire destroyed the home the following day and resulted in a fatality. The other settlement involved an April 9, 2008, termination of electric service to an apartment in Mechanicsburg. A fire destroyed the apartment and six other apartments on May 3, 2008.”

Eric Epstein, Chairman of TMI-Alert, has proposed the following programs at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for PPL’s residential customers:

- A “**Senior Rate**” based on a household’s age and fixed income levels.
- “**Green Weekend Rates**” for “off peak” and “time of use” rate schedules for qualifying non profits.
- A **Time of Use** rate that would allow all consumers to participate, and not discriminate against low-income or environmental customers.

1) Senior Rate:

The variables for eligibility include the age of the household, and the amount of fixed income as a percentage of a federal poverty level.

Eligibility begins when a rate payer reaches age 62-67. “Senior” eligibility is based on federal social security bands. There is no KWH consumption scale proposed for the program, but this rate would be linked to historic usage patterns. Like the Time-of-Use (TOU) rates, prices would increase when consumption exceeds seasonally adjusted levels.

2) Green Weekend Rates:

Green Weekend rates would be available under an “off peak” or “time of use” rate schedule for qualifying religious and nonprofit entities. Green Weekend rates would be predicated on qualifying churches and non-profits providing energy counseling.

A voluntary Green Weekend TOU program is essentially a program where special or reduced rates are available for eligible non profits, faith-based institutions, or Community Based Organizations (CBO) working with PPL as part of their CBO network.

All entities must have qualifying tax status with either the Pennsylvania Department of Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service.

Rate relief for non-profits will enhance the ability of these entities to deliver their mission, strengthen PPL’s existing Universal Service infrastructure, and allow for the creation and implementation of programming after the expiration of the rate caps.

3) Time of Use Rate for all residential consumers

PPL Electric has proposed to exclude Renewable Rider, Net Metering Rider, and “On Track” program customers from participation in the TOU program because their service is inconsistent with the mechanics of the TOU program. However, Act 129 does not allow for such exclusions, and the record in the TOU proceeding indicates that mechanical obstacles can be overcome, and customers should be eligible for this rate.

* *Mr. Epstein is Chairman of Three Mile Island Alert , Inc., (tmia.com) a safe-energy organization based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and founded in 1977. TMIA monitors Peach Bottom, Susquehanna, and Three Mile Island nuclear generating stations.*

Epstein is also an active party and witness at PPL’s rate making proceedings at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

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