

Statement of Eric Joseph Epstein

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

PPL should implement a program to decrease the dramatic rise in customer terminations.

Eric Epstein, a party to the proceeding, stated, “PPL is proposing to increase its residential rates on an aging population dependent on fixed income levels, and has no plan in place to stem the rising tide of shutoffs and terminations. Last year PPL reported over a \$1 billion profit on \$6.5 billion in revenue, yet could find no time or resources to evaluate, create, and implement a program for senior citizens living on a fixed income.”

Epstein has proposed a “**Senior Rate**” that is activated for a senior household based on age and income levels. Eligibility begins when a rate payer household reaches 62-67. The variable is the amount of household’s fixed income as a percentage of a federal poverty level.

Epstein also proposed “**Green Weekend Rates**” to be offered under “off peak” and “time of use” rate schedules for qualifying religious and nonprofit entities, and a **Space Heater Exchange Program.**”

Epstein concluded, “PPL should implement a program for senior citizens on fixed incomes or the Company will be responsible for creating a hardship class of seniors during a recession.”

1) Senior Rate:

Mr. Epstein proposes a tariff that is activated for a senior household based on age and fixed income level. Eligibility begins when a rate payer household reaches 62-67. The variable is the amount of household's fixed income as a percentage of a federal poverty level.

“Senior” eligibility should necessarily fit a precise definition. Eligibility could start with the federal social security eligibility level.

There is no KWH consumption scale proposed for the program. This program is limited to residential consumers, and Mr. Epstein proposes that the tariff should be linked to historic consumption patterns.

2) Green Weekend Rates:

Similar availability will be offered under “off peak” and “time of use” rate schedules for qualifying religious and nonprofit entities. Green Weekend rates would be predicated on qualifying churches and non-profits providing energy counseling.

3) Space Heater Exchange Program:

Trade in an old unit in for an efficient certified model based on the lawn mower exchange model. There is no free lunch - consumers would be expected to pay up to half of the cost. In addition, the qualifying churches and non-profits would offer support through programming and storage. Most of the “space heater” accounts end up as uncollectible, and are subject to disconnection due to their inability to pay.