



OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-1923

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Consumer Advocate

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July 19, 2010

Honorable Jane Clare Orie
Senate of Pennsylvania
9400 McKnight Road
Suite 105, LaCasa Blanca Bldg.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Re: Joint Application of West Penn Power Company doing business as Allegheny Power Company, Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line Company and FirstEnergy Corporation for a Certificate of Public Convenience Under Section 1102(A)(3) of the Public Utility Code Approving a Change of Control of West Penn Power Company and Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line Company
Docket Nos. A-2010-2176520 & A-2010-2176732

Dear Senator Orie:

On May 14, 2010, West Penn Power Company doing business as Allegheny Power (West Penn), Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line Company (TrAILCo) (collectively, Allegheny) and FirstEnergy Corporation (FirstEnergy) (Joint Applicants) filed an Application seeking to obtain the approval of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) for a change of control of West Penn and TrAILCo. This change of control would be accomplished by the proposed merger of Allegheny Energy, Inc., the parent company of West Penn and TrAILCo, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy.

As proposed, FirstEnergy will acquire all of the outstanding stock of Allegheny. FirstEnergy shareholders will own approximately 73% and Allegheny's former shareholders will own approximately 27% of the combined company. Allegheny would become a direct subsidiary of FirstEnergy. The Joint Applicants also requested Commission approval of certain revisions to affiliated interest arrangements that are designed to facilitate the sharing of services between the Allegheny and FirstEnergy systems.

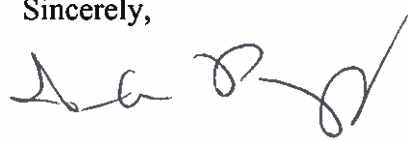
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The Public Utility Commission (PUC) has scheduled two public input hearings regarding the application of FirstEnergy and Allegheny. Enclosed is a copy of our *Consumer Bulletin* announcing the locations and times of the Public Input Hearings.

As the bulletin explains, the PUC will hold Public Input Hearings on **Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Greensburg Garden & Civic Center Auditorium, 951 Old Salem Road, Greensburg, PA 15601; and at 6:00 p.m. at the University of Pittsburgh Greensburg Campus, Campana Chapel and Lecture Center, 150 Finoli Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601.**

You and your constituents are encouraged to attend these hearings and voice your opinions regarding this proposed application. To encourage participation, we have also enclosed our *Tips for Speaking at Public Input Hearings*. If you or your constituents have any questions, please feel free to contact Assistant Consumer Advocate, Darryl Lawrence at (717) 783-5048 or toll free at 1-800-684-6560.

Sincerely,



Irwin A. Popowsky
Consumer Advocate

Enclosures
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Tips for Participating at Public Input Hearings

When the Public Utility Commission (PUC) believes there is definite public interest in a utility's formal case before them, the PUC may hold a public input hearing. The Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) offers the following tips for those who would like to speak at the hearing:

- **Please Participate.** This is your opportunity to make the PUC and the utility company aware of any concerns that you have regarding the company's service and its request for changed rates or service.
- **Come Early.** Try to arrive early. If possible, try to be there at least 10 to 15 minutes before the meeting is to begin. You will then have the opportunity to hear the introductions and the PUC Administrative Law Judge's instructions at the beginning of the hearing.
- **Sign up If You Want to Testify.** Witnesses are usually called to testify in the order they have signed in.
- **Prepare What You Want to Say in Advance.** It is helpful to prepare your statement ahead of time. If you are nervous about speaking in public, you may want to write out your statement and then read it at the hearing.
- **Be Sworn In.** Unless you are sworn in as a witness your testimony will not become part of the record in the case.
- **Add Your Own Experience.** As a customer of the utility, you have unique information. When you testify, give specific examples to support the issues you address. If other customers have already testified about the same issue, you may still mention it. It will show the issue is not affecting just one person. If there are many speakers, the Judge may set a time limit for each witness.
- **Speak Slowly and Clearly.** Your testimony is important. Make sure you are understood.
- **Written Statements.** If you have a written statement or other papers that you want to give to the Judge as evidence, please try to bring extra copies with you. One copy goes to the Judge, and two to the court reporter. You should also bring copies to give to the active parties in the case.
- **Questions.** Sometimes one of the parties in the case may want to ask you a question about your testimony. Listen carefully to the question and answer it the best you can. It is okay if you do not know the answer.
- **Assistance from the OCA.** If you need information about the case or about how to testify, please feel free to contact the OCA at 800-684-6560. An OCA attorney will be at all public input hearings when our office is part of the case. Please ask the OCA attorney any questions you may have. The OCA is there to help consumers.

Thank You for Your Interest

Office of Consumer Advocate, 555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Forum Place, Harrisburg, Pa 17101-1923

PA Consumers: 800 684-6560 • (717) 783-5048 • consumer@paoca.org • www.oca.state.pa.us

Public Input Hearings Regarding the Application of FirstEnergy Corporation and Allegheny Energy

On May 14, 2010, West Penn Power Company doing business as Allegheny Power (West Penn), Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line Company (TrAILCo) (collectively, Allegheny) and FirstEnergy Corporation (FirstEnergy) (Joint Applicants) filed an Application seeking to obtain the approval of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) for a change of control of West Penn and TrAILCo. This change of control would be accomplished by the proposed merger of Allegheny Energy, Inc., the parent company of West Penn and TrAILCo a subsidiary of FirstEnergy.

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The Public Input Hearings will be held:

Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

Greensburg Garden & Civic Center
Auditorium
951 Old Salem Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

University of Pittsburgh
Greensburg Campus
Campana Chapel and Lecture Center
150 Finoli Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601

If you have questions about this hearing or about this application, contact the Office of Consumer Advocate toll-free at 1-800-684-6560 or by e-mail at consumer@paoca.org