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**PRESS RELEASE**

**PECO ATTEMPTS TO RESTRICT PUBLIC INPUT IN ITS DEFAULT SERVICE PROGRAM CASE**

Monday, May 18, 2020

On May 11, PECO took the highly unusual step of filing a motion to prohibit members of the public from expressing support for clean energy or concerns about climate change in connection with PECO's procurement of electricity. PECO is currently seeking approval from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC") for its next Default Service Program ("DSP"), which determines how PECO will source the electricity it serves to most of its ratepayers. As part of that proceeding, there will be a public hearing about PECO's DSP in early June. PECO's motion seeks to bar members of the public from testifying at that public hearing about clean energy, climate change, and resiliency, among other topics.

PECO's motion was immediately challenged by the Sierra Club, Clean Air Council, and the Philadelphia Solar Energy Association (the "Environmental Stakeholders"), a coalition of environmental groups represented by Earthjustice. The Environmental Stakeholders have intervened to ensure that PECO properly considers clean energy alternatives, as the case will determine how PECO ensures reliable service at just and reasonable rates to the majority of its customers for the next five years. Approximately 70% of PECO's customers are currently default service customers and will be directly affected by the outcome of this case.

Central to the challenge filed by the Environmental Stakeholders is the fact that reliability of service, particularly during extreme weather events and emergencies, is affected by the type of energy that PECO decides to procure. Also of concern, given the current COVID-19 pandemic, is the impact of air pollution from electricity generation as a contributor to respiratory illness. Finally, PECO's decisions on energy supply may also have a significant impact on local job creation, and PECO is seeking to block testimony concerning the potential reliability contributions of local solar projects that could create good local jobs.

The Administrative Law Judge presiding over the case is scheduled to make a ruling any day now on whether to grant PECO's motion to restrict public input. The public hearing for this case has been preliminarily scheduled for June 9. Press are invited and encouraged to cover the public hearing, which will likely occur telephonically.

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For more information about the motion or the public hearing, or for copies of the relevant documents, please contact Devin McDougall, counsel for the Environmental Stakeholders, at [dmcdougall@earthjustice.org](mailto:dmcdougall@earthjustice.org).