

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Joint Petition of Metropolitan Edison :
Company, Pennsylvania Electric Company :
and Pennsylvania Power Company for : Docket No. M-2009-2123950
Approval of Smart Meter Technology :
Procurement and Installation Plan :

DIRECT TESTIMONY

of

J. RICHARD HORNBY

on behalf of:

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

October 21, 2009

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF J. RICHARD HORNBY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION 1
II. SUMMARY 3
III. POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED SMIP..... 5
IV. RATEMAKING ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH PROPOSED SMT-C SURCHARGE 14

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit__(JRH-1) Resume of James Richard Hornby

1 I. INTRODUCTION

2
3 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, EMPLOYER, AND PRESENT POSITION.

4 A. My name is James Richard Hornby. I am a Senior Consultant at Synapse Energy
5 Economics, Inc., 22 Pearl Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

6 Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING IN THIS CASE?

7 A. I am testifying on behalf of the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA).

8 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE SYNAPSE ENERGY ECONOMICS.

9 A. Synapse Energy Economics (Synapse) is a research and consulting firm specializing in
10 energy and environmental issues, including: electric generation, transmission and
11 distribution system reliability, market power, electricity market prices, stranded costs,
12 efficiency, renewable energy, environmental quality, and nuclear power.

13 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATIONAL
14 BACKGROUND.

15 A. I am a consultant specializing in planning, market structure, ratemaking, and gas
16 supply/fuel procurement in the electric and gas industries. Over the past twenty years, I
17 have presented expert testimony and provided litigation support on these issues in
18 approximately 100 proceedings in over thirty jurisdictions in the United States and
19 Canada. Over this period, my clients have included staff of public utility commissions,
20 state energy offices, consumer advocate offices and marketers.

21 Prior to joining Synapse in 2006, I was a Principal with CRA International and,
22 prior to that, Tabors Caramanis & Associates. From 1986 to 1998, I worked with the
23 Tellus Institute (formerly Energy Systems Research Group), initially as Manager of the
24 Natural Gas Program and subsequently as Director of their Energy Group. Prior to 1986,
25 I was Assistant Deputy Minister of Energy for the Province of Nova Scotia.

1 I have a Master of Science in Energy Technology and Policy from the
2 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering
3 from the Technical University of Nova Scotia, now merged with Dalhousie University. I
4 have attached my resume to this testimony as Exhibit____(JRH-1).

5 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE ECONOMICS OF,**
6 **AND RATEMAKING FOR, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DEMAND**
7 **RESPONSE, INCLUDING DEMAND RESPONSE ENABLED BY ADVANCED**
8 **METERING INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI) SUCH AS THE SMART METERING**
9 **INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSED BY THE FIRSTENERGY COMPANIES.**

10 A. My experience with energy efficiency measures and policies began over thirty years ago
11 as a project engineer responsible for identifying and pursuing opportunities to reduce
12 energy use in a factory in Nova Scotia. Subsequently, in my graduate program at MIT, I
13 took several courses on energy technologies and policies, and prepared a thesis analyzing
14 federal policies to promote investments in energy efficiency. After MIT, I spent several
15 years with the government in Nova Scotia, during which time I administered a provincial
16 program to promote energy conservation in the industrial sector and later included energy
17 conservation in all sectors as part of energy plans developed for the province.

18 Since 1986, as a regulatory consultant I have helped review and prepare numerous
19 integrated resource plans in the gas and electric industries, and testified regarding cost
20 allocation and rate design. During the past several years I have led projects to estimate
21 the avoided costs of electricity and natural gas in New England for a coalition of
22 efficiency program administrators. In addition I have reviewed the economics of demand
23 response, and of AMI proposals in New Jersey, Maine, the District of Columbia and
24 Pennsylvania. I have testified regarding the alignment of utility financial incentives and

1 rates with the pursuit of energy efficiency in proceedings in North Carolina, South
2 Carolina, Indiana and Minnesota.

3 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

4 A. The OCA retained Ms. Nancy Brockway and myself to assist in its analysis of the Smart
5 Meter Technology Procurement and Installation Plan (SMIP or Smart Meter Plan) filed
6 jointly by Metropolitan Edison Company, Pennsylvania Electric Company, and
7 Pennsylvania Power Company (collectively First Energy Companies) on August 14,
8 2009. The purpose of my testimony is to discuss the policy implications of the
9 Companies' SMIP as well as various ratemaking issues associated with its proposal for
10 cost recovery. Ms. Brockway addresses various analyses that the FirstEnergy Companies
11 should conduct during the initial phase of their SMIP.

12

13 **II. SUMMARY**

14

15 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE FIRSTENERGY COMPANIES' PROPOSED**
16 **SMART METER PLAN AND COST RECOVERY.**

17 A. The FirstEnergy Companies have proposed a Smart Meter Plan consisting of a planning
18 stage and a deployment stage. They refer to these two stages as an "Assessment Period"
19 and a "Deployment Plan" respectively. During the two year Assessment Period the
20 Companies will assess needs, identify and quantify potential benefits as well as develop
21 proposed approaches to technology and deployment. At the end of the Assessment
22 Period they will file a proposed Deployment Plan with the Commission which will
23 include their proposed approach, projections of its costs and benefits, and a proposal for
24 cost recovery. Upon approval of the Deployment Plan, the Companies will begin full
25 scale deployment of smart metering across their three service territories.

1 The FirstEnergy Companies have proposed a combined budget of \$29.5 million to
2 cover the costs of their proposed activities during the Assessment Period, of which only
3 \$2.5 million is for meters. They propose recovering those costs through a new a “Smart
4 Meter Technologies (SMT-C) Rider for each Company. They are proposing that the
5 SMT-C be applied as customer charge, in \$ per meter per month.

6 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
7 **REGARDING THE PROPOSED SMART METER PLAN.**

8 A. My primary conclusion is that the Companies’ proposed Smart Meter Plan is reasonable.
9 However, it is important that FirstEnergy Companies understand that they will be
10 required to demonstrate that their proposed Deployment Plan is the most cost-effective
11 approach available to them for meeting the goals of Pennsylvania Act 129 with respect to
12 deploying smart meter technology and supporting reductions in peak load and annual
13 energy consumption.

14 Based upon those two conclusions, I recommend that the Commission approve
15 the Companies’ proposed Smart Meter Plan. I further recommend that the Commission
16 clearly indicate that its decision is to be interpreted as approval of the planning process,
17 timeline and milestones proposed in the SMIP for the Assessment Period and not as
18 approval of any specific decisions that management of the Companies may make during
19 that Period.

20 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
21 **REGARDING THE PROPOSED COST RECOVERY.**

22 A. In their Deployment Plan the Companies will have the opportunity to propose an
23 assignment and/or allocation of the costs they expect to incur during the Deployment
24 Period, and specific charges to collect those costs, based upon a cost of service (‘COS’)

1 study and an analysis of bill impacts. Until that time, it is reasonable for the Companies
2 to allocate Assessment Period costs using a simple allocator consistent with the
3 anticipated benefits which are driving, or causing, the implementation of AMI and to
4 collect those costs through a charge consistent with the categories of those costs.

5 My conclusion is that the cost allocation and rate design aspects of the
6 Companies' proposed SMT-C Rider must be modified in order for the costs incurred
7 during the Assessment Period to be allocated in a manner consistent with principles of
8 cost causation and rate design. I recommend that the Commission reject the Companies'
9 proposal to allocate their Assessment Period costs according to number of customer and
10 to recover all costs through a fixed customer charge. Instead, the Companies should
11 allocate their Assessment Period costs according to a composite allocation factor based
12 upon energy and demand, and should recover those costs through a delivery charge (cents
13 per kwh) for distribution service.

14 In addition, I recommend that the Commission require the Companies to establish
15 a procedure for periodically updating the equity return they use to calculate the SMT-C
16 based on the most recent "Report on the Quarterly Earnings of Jurisdictional Utilities"
17 and to modify the proposed SMT-C tariff to credit ratepayers for any savings in
18 distribution costs that result from their Plan.

19

20 **III. POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED SMIP**

21

22 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE COMPANIES' SMART METER PLAN.**

23 A. The FirstEnergy Companies are proposing a Smart Meter Plan that consists of a planning
24 stage and a deployment stage. They refer to these two stages as an "Assessment Period"

1 and a “Deployment Plan” respectively. The Companies are proposing to use the two year
2 Assessment Period to assess needs, identify and quantify potential benefits as well as
3 develop proposed approaches to technology and deployment. At the end of the
4 Assessment Period they will file a proposed Deployment Plan with the Commission
5 which will include their proposed approach, projections of its costs and benefits; and a
6 proposal for cost recovery. Upon approval of the Deployment Plan the Companies would
7 begin full scale deployment of smart metering across their three service territories.

8 **Q. IS THE COMPANIES’ PROPOSED SMART METER PLAN REASONABLE?**

9 A. Yes. The approach that the Companies’ have proposed in their Smart Meter Plan is
10 reasonable. The Companies estimate that the total cost of full-deployment of AMI in
11 their three service territories may exceed \$325 million. Given the magnitude of that
12 potential investment, the fact that there are many approaches to implementing AMI and
13 the uncertainties around future costs and benefits of full-deployment, it is reasonable for
14 the Companies to use the assessment Period to determine the most cost-effective
15 approach for each of their particular service territories.

16 **Q. WHAT OBLIGATION DO THE FIRSTENERGY COMPANIES HAVE WITH**
17 **RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTING FULL DEPLOYMENT OF AMI AND/OR**
18 **DYNAMIC PRICING UNDER ACT 129?**

19 A. From a policy perspective, my understanding is that Act 129 establishes important energy
20 and environmental goals for Pennsylvania, including targets for reductions in annual
21 energy consumption and for reductions in peak load. The Act also requires electric
22 distribution companies (EDCs), such as the FirstEnergy Companies, to deploy smart
23 meter technology. Thus, the Act establishes general policy goals but leaves the details of
24 the strategies for achieving those goals to be developed under the regulatory oversight of
25 the Commission.

1 This approach is consistent with sound public and ratemaking policy. First, there
2 are many different possible approaches to deploying a Smart Meter Plan. Second,
3 Pennsylvania utilities provide electricity to service territories that differ widely in terms
4 of key attributes such as the composition of their customer base, the costs of distribution
5 service, the costs of generation service and the opportunities for reducing those costs
6 through efficiency and demand response. Therefore, it is not surprising that Act 129 has
7 placed the onus on each utility to develop a Smart Meter Plan in a manner that is most
8 cost-effective for its specific service territory.

9 Under this approach the FirstEnergy Companies, and the other EDCs, have to
10 demonstrate to the Commission that their proposed Smart Meter Plans are the most cost-
11 effective approaches for their specific service territories. In other words, I believe that
12 the FirstEnergy Companies must demonstrate to the Commission that their proposed
13 Smart Meter Plan is the most cost-effective approach for meeting the policy objectives of
14 Act 129 out of the range of possible alternative approaches available to them. Thus, from
15 a policy perspective, there is nothing in Act 129 which exempts the Companies from
16 bearing the burden of demonstrating to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
17 (PUC) that their specific proposal will satisfy the statutory obligation to provide service
18 at just and reasonable rates.

19 **Q. DO OTHER UTILITIES HAVE LONG-TERM EXPERIENCE WITH THE**
20 **PERFORMANCE AND ECONOMICS OF AMI AND DYNAMIC PRICING ON A**
21 **SYSTEM-WIDE OR FULLY DEPLOYED BASIS?**

22 A. No. Utilities have conducted a number of pilot projects testing AMI and dynamic pricing
23 on a limited basis. However, it is only in the last few years that several United States
24 utilities have received regulatory approval to deploy AMI and dynamic pricing tariffs on

1 their systems on a wide scale basis. In fact, most of those utilities are currently in the
2 process of completing that deployment.

3 The absence of robust empirical evidence regarding the performance and
4 economics of AMI and dynamic pricing on a system-wide basis over time results in
5 considerable uncertainty regarding both long-term technical performance and the
6 magnitude of peak load reductions that will actually be sustained in the long-term in
7 response to dynamic pricing approaches such as peak time rebates ('PTR') or critical
8 peak pricing ('CPP'). In an effort to help reduce that uncertainty, and help stimulate the
9 economy, the recent federal stimulus bill, i.e., the American Recovery and Reinvestment
10 Act of 2009, H.R. 1, 11th Congress (2009) (ARRA) approved appropriations to fund
11 Smart Grid Demonstration Projects as well as a Smart Grid Investment Matching Fund to
12 help support deployment of AMI by utilities who meet the grant selection criteria.

13 **Q. HAS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY**
14 **COMMISSIONERS (NARUC) EXPRESSED CONCERNS REGARDING THE**
15 **POTENTIAL FOR ADVERSE RATE AND BILL IMPACTS FROM TOO RAPID**
16 **OF A TRANSITION TO FULL DEPLOYMENT OF AMI?**

17 A Yes. In his March 3, 2009 testimony to the United States Senate Committee on Energy
18 and Natural Resources, New Jersey Commissioner Frederick Butler, President of
19 NARUC, expressed a number of concerns regarding a rapid move to full deployment of
20 Smart Grid systems. In that testimony, President Butler makes a number of important
21 points regarding consideration of ratepayer reaction:

22 *I know the Smart Grid can change how utilities oversee their networks and*
23 *improve reliability. I know that, in the end, consumers could have greater control*
24 *over their usage and have the potential to lower their bills. I also know, however,*

1 *that if we do not do this correctly, if we move too quickly and promise too much*
2 *we can endanger our coming close to meeting any of those lofty aspirations.*

3
4 *But we do need to be careful. Right now, we are selling the Smart Grid as a*
5 *means of empowering consumers to lower their usage and, correspondingly, their*
6 *energy bills. While this may ultimately be the case, we must learn our lesson from*
7 *the restructuring experience before heading down this path. The promise of*
8 *restructuring was that consumers would save money by shopping for power....*

9
10 *The problem here was not restructuring per se, but it was the way it was sold to*
11 *consumers. Instead of determining the best way to move forward deliberatively,*
12 *we jumped right in, with the promise of lower rates to follow. Because of this*
13 *approach, and because of the results, the concept of restructuring has taken a*
14 *significant hit.*

15
16 *The concern that many of my colleagues are trying to resolve is that consumers*
17 *are convinced that the Smart Grid will only raise their rates with no discernable*
18 *benefits. In a high-priced environment, some or perhaps most consumers see*
19 *advanced metering rollouts as just one more headache and budget buster and are*
20 *particularly scared that utilities and vendors will keep raising rates as the*
21 *technology changes.*

22
23 *We have to remember that the Smart Grid will only achieve its vast potential if*
24 *consumers embrace it.*

1 Even if there were no uncertainty associated with the projected benefits of the Smart
2 Grid, Commissioner Butler's comments indicate that it is essential to consider the
3 impacts on ratepayers when assessing proposals for full deployment. Since there are, in
4 fact, uncertainties regarding the projected benefits of AMI and dynamic proposals it is
5 essential that the FirstEnergy Companies prepare a rigorous assessment.

6 **Q. ARE THERE OTHER REASONS WHY UTILITIES SHOULD MAKE A**
7 **GRADUAL TRANSITION TO FULL DEPLOYMENT OF AMI AND DYNAMIC**
8 **PRICING?**

9 A. Yes. There are several reasons why Pennsylvania utilities such as the FirstEnergy
10 Companies should make a gradual transition to full deployment of AMI and dynamic
11 pricing.

12 First, the installation of AMI and associated enabling of dynamic pricing, in and
13 of themselves, do not reduce customer electricity use during peak hours or annually.
14 Instead, actual reductions in peak load and annual consumption, and hence in annual
15 electricity bills and environmental impacts associated with that physical consumption,
16 will only be achieved if individual customers actually reduce their electricity
17 consumption in response to dynamic prices in every period, year after year. There is still
18 substantial uncertainty regarding residential customer responsiveness to dynamic pricing
19 and price information in the long-term.

20 Second, deployment of AMI and dynamic pricing such as the Companies'
21 proposed Smart Meter Plan primarily enable reductions in peak load rather than
22 reductions in annual electricity consumption. Reductions in peak load are referred to as
23 demand response (DR) while reductions in annual electricity consumption are referred to
24 as energy conservation or energy efficiency (EE). DR alone has only limited impacts on

1 annual energy consumption and the annual environmental impacts associated with the
2 generation of electricity to supply that annual consumption. Reductions in critical peak
3 hours are important because they have a much higher economic value than reductions in
4 other hours of the year. The high economic value is due to the ability of reductions in
5 those hours to reduce capacity costs in addition to the high price energy in critical peak
6 hours. However, significant new reductions in peak load can be achieved from many
7 commercial and industrial (C&I) customers with no further deployment of AMI. Those
8 C&I customers already have the interval meters and communication technology they
9 need for demand response driven by dynamic pricing. Moreover, reductions in critical
10 peak hours represent a relatively small portion of customer annual usage. EE measures,
11 in contrast, not only lead to reductions in electricity consumption during critical peak
12 hours, like DR, but also in all the other hours when electricity affected by that measure is
13 being used.

14 Third, the timing and magnitude of the capacity costs avoided due to DR can be
15 more difficult to estimate than the timing and magnitude of the electric energy costs
16 avoided due to EE. For example, a 1 kWh reduction in electricity consumption from
17 energy conservation or EE results in a corresponding immediate reduction in the quantity
18 of electricity generated, after adjustments for system losses. That quantity of electricity
19 generation is clearly avoided. In contrast, a 1 kW reduction in peak load from DR does
20 not automatically produce a corresponding immediate reduction in the quantity of
21 capacity being held to ensure reliable service for that load. Instead, decisions regarding
22 the quantity of generation, transmission and distribution capacity needed for reliable
23 service are made several years before the year in which the actual load occurs. Thus, to
24 avoid capacity, it must be assured that the reduction in peak load will continue over their

1 long-term planning horizon. The fact that utilities and curtailment service providers have
2 the ability to bid reductions in peak load into wholesale capacity markets in PJM and
3 elsewhere has helped to reduce the uncertainty associated with projections of avoided
4 wholesale generation capacity costs.

5 **Q. WHAT TYPES OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF AMI AND AMI-ENABLED**
6 **DYNAMIC PRICING SHOULD THE FIRSTENERGY COMPANIES IDENTIFY**
7 **AND QUANTIFY DURING ASSESSMENT PERIOD?.**

8 A. The First Energy Companies should use the Assessment Period to identify and quantify
9 the major potential benefits of AMI and AMI-enabled dynamic pricing associated with
10 the specific approach that they ultimately propose. They have stated their intention to
11 prepare a detailed estimate of the projected benefits associated with the business plan
12 they develop during the Assessment Period, as indicated in their responses to OCA data
13 requests 1-7 through I -9. The quantification of those projected benefits is essential in
14 order to demonstrate that their proposal is the most cost-effective reasonable approach
15 relative to the range of other approaches available to them.

16 Potential benefits from AMI are typically savings in metering related capital costs
17 and operating expense. The FirstEnergy Companies should have no problem estimating
18 these savings. In addition, many proponents of AMI expect that it will enable utilities to
19 improve the reliability of their distribution service. For example, they should be able to
20 reduce the duration of outages by using data from the smart meters to identify their
21 specific locations more rapidly. In addition, by installing monitors on key components of
22 their system infrastructure, such as transformers, they should be able to improve the
23 effectiveness of their preventive maintenance. The FirstEnergy Companies should

1 include their distribution planning and operations engineers in the identification and
2 quantification of potential improvements in reliability that could be achieved via AMI.

3 Potential benefits from AMI-enabled dynamic pricing are more complex and
4 require more analyses. These benefits depend upon projected reductions in peak demand
5 (MW) and annual energy (MWh) by year expected to result from customer response to
6 the dynamic pricing. Moreover, this estimation will likely need to be iterative as the
7 quantity of reductions will be affected by the value of those reductions to ratepayers. To
8 begin, the FirstEnergy Companies will need to:

- 9 • identify potential demand response programs and/or new rate offerings to enable
10 with, and implement in conjunction with, its particular smart meter plan;
- 11 • estimate the number of customers by rate class likely to participate in each
12 program or rate offering on a sustained basis; and
- 13 • estimate the average reduction in demand and energy per customer by rate class
14 expected from each program or rate offering on a sustained basis.

15 In order to prepare these estimates the Companies may need to conduct market research
16 to understand the usage characteristics of their residential customers and to review the
17 programs and rate offerings implemented by comparable utilities. (It is important to find
18 utilities that are comparable in terms of residential customer characteristics and value of
19 reductions in demand).

20 Once the FirstEnergy Companies have an initial projection of reductions in
21 demand and energy by rate class or customer segment by year, they can then proceed to
22 estimate the value of those reductions in terms of avoided distribution service capital
23 costs and avoided electricity supply costs. To estimate those values they will have to
24 prepare a number of analyses, such as:

- 1 • Estimated savings in local transmission and/or distribution capital costs from
2 delaying or downsizing investments because of reductions in demand. This will
3 require a projection of these costs for a reference case in the absence of these
4 reductions;
- 5 • Estimated savings in wholesale electric capacity costs that can be realized,
6 explicitly through bidding into the PJM RPM, or implicitly due to reductions in
7 peak demand and hence reductions in the quantity of capacity required;
- 8 • Estimated savings in wholesale electric energy costs that can be realized,
9 explicitly through participation in the PJM energy market in peak hours, or
10 implicitly due to reductions in purchases during peak hours due to reductions in
11 peak demand; and
- 12 • Estimated savings in electricity supply costs due to the reductions in market prices
13 for wholesale electric capacity and/or peak hour energy resulting from reductions
14 in peak demand.

15 The last three sets of estimates will require a projection of the values of wholesale capacity and
16 peak hour energy over the study period for the PJM zone in which the FirstEnergy Companies
17 are located.

18

19 **IV. RATEMAKING ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH PROPOSED SMT-C SURCHARGE**

20

21

22 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE COMPANIES' PROPOSAL FOR RECOVERING**
23 **THE ASSESSMENT PERIOD COSTS OF THE SMART METER PLAN.**

24 A. The FirstEnergy Companies have proposed a combined budget of \$29.5 million to cover
25 the costs of their proposed activities during the Assessment Period. This estimated budget

1 consists of \$18.7 million for labor, \$8.3 million for Information Technology and only
2 \$2.5 million for meters (Mills Direct, p.12).

3 The Companies are proposing to treat these as common costs which they will
4 expense. The Companies propose to allocate these common costs among the Companies
5 and their rate classes according to number of customers (response to OCA I- 33). They
6 propose to recover those costs through a new SMT-C rider for each Company, which
7 would be applied as a customer charge, i.e. in \$ per meter per month. As such, it would
8 be an unavoidable monthly fixed charge.

9 **Q. IS THE PROPOSED SMT-C REASONABLE?**

10 A. No. The SMT-C is not reasonable because the cost allocation and rate design underlying
11 the proposed charge are not reasonable.

12 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR CONCERN REGARDING THE COMPANIES’**
13 **PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF THESE REVENUE REQUIREMENTS AMONG**
14 **THE THREE COMPANIES AND THEIR RATE CLASSES.**

15 A. The FirstEnergy Companies consider the costs they will incur during the Assessment
16 Period to be common costs. They are proposing to allocate these common costs based on
17 the number of customers. However, the Companies have not demonstrated that this
18 allocation is based upon cost causation. In fact, since these AMI related costs are being
19 incurred, or “caused”, primarily in anticipation of substantial savings in electricity
20 supply costs they should be allocated in a manner that reflects those anticipated benefits.
21 Allocating based on number of customers does not properly reflect the fact that the
22 majority of the benefits are savings related to reductions in either demand or energy.
23 Therefore the allocation factor should be based upon demand (kW), energy (kWh) or
24 some combination of both.

1 Even if one were using a customer-related allocation factor, number of customers
2 would not be appropriate because the cost of a meter varies by rate class. For example, a
3 meter for a residential customer is less expensive than a meter for a C&I customer in one
4 of the general service rate classes. If one were using a customer-related allocation
5 factor, it should be a cost weighted factor that reflects the cost per meter by rate class as
6 well as the number of customers per rate class.

7 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR CONCERN REGARDING THE COMPANIES’**
8 **PROPOSAL TO APPLY THE SMT-C AS A CUSTOMER CHARGE.**

9 A. The Companies’ proposal to apply the SMT-C as a customer charge is not reasonable for
10 the Assessment Period. As noted above, the Companies consider the costs it will incur to
11 be joint and common costs rather than customer-related costs. There is no support for
12 recovering costs that are classified as joint and common via a customer charge.

13 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
14 **REGARDING THE PROPOSED COST RECOVERY.**

15 A. In their Deployment Plan the Companies will have the opportunity to propose an
16 assignment and/or allocation of the costs they expect to incur during the Deployment
17 Period, and specific charges to collect those costs, based upon a cost of service (‘COS’)
18 study and an analysis of bill impacts. Until that time, it is reasonable for the Companies
19 to allocate Assessment Period costs using a simple allocator consistent with the
20 anticipated benefits which are driving, or causing, the implementation of AMI and to
21 collect those costs through a charge consistent with the categories of those costs.

22 My conclusion is that the cost allocation and rate design aspects of the
23 Companies’ proposed SMT-C Rider must be modified in order for the costs incurred
24 during the Assessment Period to be allocated in a manner consistent with principles of
25 cost causation and rate design. I recommend that the Commission reject the Companies’

1 proposal to allocate their Assessment Period costs according to number of customer and
2 to recover all costs through a fixed customer charge. Instead, the Companies should
3 allocate their Assessment Period costs according to a composite allocation factor based
4 upon energy and demand, and should recover those costs through a delivery charge (cents
5 per kwh) for distribution service.

6 **Q. PLEASE COMMENT ON THE RETURN ON EQUITY THAT THE COMPANIES**
7 **PROPOSE TO USE TO CALCULATE THE SMT-C.**

8 A. The Companies' are proposing to use a return on equity (ROE) of 10.1%. The
9 Commission approved this rate for the Metropolitan Edison and Pennsylvania Electric
10 Companies in a January 11, 2007 Order in their last base rate case. This is an acceptable
11 initial rate. Going forward, I recommend that a procedure be developed so that an equity
12 return based on the most recent "Report on the Quarterly Earnings of Jurisdictional
13 Utilities" (Quarterly Earnings Report) prepared by the Bureau of Fixed Utility Services
14 and released by the Commission could be used when the rate from the last base rate case
15 is no longer representative of current conditions.

16 **Q. WILL THE SMT-C CREDIT CUSTOMERS WITH ANY SAVINGS IN**
17 **DISTRIBUTION SERVICE OPERATING COSTS THAT MAY RESULT FROM**
18 **ITS SMART METER PLAN**

19 A. No. The Companies' proposed tariff for the SMT-C makes no reference to crediting
20 customers with savings in distribution service operating costs that result from its smart
21 meter plan. The absence of this credit is likely due to the Companies' belief that there
22 will not be any such savings during the Assessment Period. Nevertheless, the
23 Commission should require the Companies to modify its tariff to include such text. For
24 example the comparable PECO tariff states: "*Any reductions in operating expenses or*

1 *avoided capital expenditures due to the Smart Meter Program will be deducted from the*
2 *incremental costs of the Smart Meter Program to derive the net incremental cost of the*
3 *Program that is recoverable. Such reductions shall include any reductions in the*
4 *Company's current meter and meter reading costs."*

5 Q. **DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

6 A. Yes.

7

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Synapse Energy Economics, Inc., Cambridge, MA. *Senior Consultant*, 2006 to present.

Analysis and expert testimony regarding planning, market structure, ratemaking and contracting issues in the electricity and natural gas industries.

Charles River Associates (formerly Tabors Caramanis & Associates), Cambridge, MA.

Principal, 2004-2006.

Senior Consultant, 1998-2004.

Provided expert testimony and litigation support in several energy contract price arbitration proceedings, as well as in electric and gas utility ratemaking proceedings in Ontario, New York, Nova Scotia and New Jersey. Managed a major productivity improvement and planning project for two electric distribution companies within the Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority. Analyzed a range of market structure and contracting issues in wholesale electricity markets.

Tellus Institute, Boston, MA.

Vice President and Director of Energy Group, 1997–1998.

Presented expert testimony on rates for unbundled retail services in restructured retail markets and analyzed the options for purchasing electricity and gas in those markets.

Manager of Natural Gas Program, 1986–1997.

Prepared testimony and reports on a range of gas industry issues including market structure, unbundled services, ratemaking, strategic planning, market analyses, and supply planning.

Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy, Halifax, Canada; 1981–1986

Member, Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Oil and Gas Board, 1983–1986

Member of a federal-provincial board responsible for regulating petroleum industry exploration and development activity offshore Nova Scotia.

Assistant Deputy Minister of Energy 1983–1986

Responsible for analysis and implementation of provincial energy policies and programs, as well as for Energy Division budget and staff. Directed preparation of comprehensive energy plan emphasizing energy efficiency and use of provincial energy resources. Senior technical advisor on provincial team responsible for negotiating and implementing a federal/provincial fiscal, regulatory, and legislative regime to govern offshore oil and gas. Directed analyses of proposals to develop and market natural gas, coal, and tidal power resources. Also served as Director of Energy Resources (1982-1983) and Assistant to the Deputy Minister (1981-1982).

Nova Scotia Research Foundation, Dartmouth, Canada, Consultant, 1978–1981

Edited Nova Scotia's first comprehensive energy plan. Administered government-funded industrial energy conservation program—audits, feasibility studies, and investment grants.

Canadian Keyes Fibre, Hantsport, Canada, Project Engineer, 1975–1977

Imperial Group Limited, Bristol, England, Management Consultant, 1973–1975

EDUCATION

M.S., Technology and Policy (Energy), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1979.

Thesis: "An Assessment of Government Policies to Promote Investments in Energy Conserving Technologies"

B.Eng. Industrial Engineering (with Distinction), Dalhousie University, Canada, 1973

EXPERT TESTIMONY AND LITIGATION SUPPORT (1987 to present)

Provided expert testimony and/or litigation support on planning, market structure, ratemaking and gas supply/fuel procurement in the electric and gas industries in approximately 100 proceedings in over thirty jurisdictions in the United States and Canada. List of proceedings available upon request.
