

17 North Second Street 12th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101-1601 717-731-1970 Main 717-731-1985 Main Fax www.postschell.com

Christopher T. Wright

cwright@postschell.com 717-612-6013 Direct 717-731-1985 Direct Fax File #: 150995

February 28, 2013

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 2nd Floor North P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: Application of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Subchapter G, for Approval of the Siting and Construction of Transmission Lines Associated with the Northeast-Pocono Reliability Project in Portions of Luzerne, Lackawanna, Monroe, and Wayne Counties, Pennsylvania Docket Nos. A-2012-2340872, et al.

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing is the Response of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation to the Request for Waiver and New Matter filed by Covintgon Township in the above-referenced proceeding. Copies will be provided as indicated on the Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher T. Wright

CTW/jl Enclosures

cc: Honorable David A. Salapa Certificate of Service

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

ofPPL. Docket No. A-2012-2340872 Application Electric Utilities Corporation filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Subchapter G, for Approval of the Siting and Construction of Transmission Lines : Associated with the Northeast-Pocono Reliability Project in Portions of Luzerne, Lackawanna, Monroe, and Wayne Counties, Pennsylvania Docket No. P-2012-2340871 Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for a Finding that a Building to Shelter Control Equipment at the North Poeono 230-69 kV Substation in Covington Township, : County, Pennsylvania Lackawanna Reasonably Necessary for the Convenience or Welfare of the Public Docket No. P-2012-2341105 Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for a Finding that a Building to Shelter Control Equipment at the West Pocono 230-69 kV Substation in Buck Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania is Reasonably Necessary for the Convenience or Welfare of the Public Application Of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Under 15 Pa.C.S. §1511(c) For A Finding And Determination That The Service To Be Furnished By The Applicant Through Its Proposed Exercise Of The Power Of Eminent Domain To Acquire Right-of-Way And Easement Over A Certain Portion Of The Lands Of The Following For Siting And Transmission Construction Of Lines Associated With The Proposed Northeast-

Pocono Reliability Project Is Necessary Or Proper For The Service, Accommodation,

Convenience Or Safety Of The Public:

Art Mortgage Borrower Propco 2010-5 LLC	: Docket No. A-2013-2341238
Margaret G. Arthur and Barbara A. Saurman, Trustees of the Residuary Trust of James C. Arthur	Docket No. A-2012-2341115
Blue Ridge Real Estate	: Docket No. A-2013-2341277
Clifton Acres, Inc.	: Docket No. A-2013-2341236
Sylvester J. Coccia	: Docket No. A-2013-2341267
Dietrich Hunting Club	Docket No. A-2013-2341237
Dianne L. Doss	Docket No. A-2013-2341214
Lawrence Duda	: Docket No. A-2013-2341271
Fr E2 Property Holding LP	Docket No. A-2013-2341263
FR First Avenue Property Holding, LP	Docket No. A-2012-2341123
Donald W. Henderson and Louis V. Bellucci	Docket No. A-2013-2341262
Bradley D. Hummel	Docket No. A-2013-2341220
International Consolidated Investment Company	Docket No. A-2013-2341216
John F. and Veronica B. Iskra	Docket No. A-2013-2341233
Donald Januszewski	Docket No. A-2013-2341215
John C. Justice and Linda S. Justice	: Docket No. A-2012-2341107
Anthony J. Lupas, Jr. and Lillian Lupas, John Lupas and Judy Lupas, Grace Lupas, Eugene A. Bartoli and Robert J. Frankelli	Docket No. A-2012-2341118
Mark M. Mack, J. Dean Mack and Heather K. Mack In Bear Creek Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania	Docket No. A-2013-2341272
Christopher Maros and Melinda Maros	Docket No. A-2013-2341213

Michael A. Mitch and Sue K. Mitch	: Docket No. A-2013-2341234
NLMS, Inc.	: Docket No. A-2013-2341239
Michael Palermo and Joanne Palermo	: Docket No. A-2013-2341221
Peter Palermo and Francine Palermo	Docket No. A-2013-2341211
William Petrouleas and Joanna Petrouleas	Docket No. A-2013-2341209
Edward R. Schultz	Docket No. A-2013-2341253
Roberta Searfoss a/k/a Judy Searfoss, Executrix of the Estate of Euylla Hughes a/k/a Eylla Hughes	Docket No. A-2013-2341232
Ronald G. Sidovar and Gloria J. Sidovar	: Docket No. A-2012-2341120
Ronald Solt	Docket No. A-2013-2341249
Merel J. and Arlene J. Swingle	Docket No. A-2013-2341250
Three Griffins Enterprises Inc.	Docket No. A-2012-2341114
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation	Docket No. A-2013-2341208
US Industrial Reit II	Docket No. A-2013-2341241
James L & Michaelene J Butler,	Docket No. A-2013-2344353
Susan Butler Living Trust,	Docket No. A-2013-2344604
Grumble Knot LLC,	Docket No. A-2013-2344612
Pennsylvania Glacial Till LLC, and	Docket No. A-2013-2344616
Blueberry Mountain Realty LLC.	Docket No. A-2013-2344605

Chris and Melinda Maros v. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation	:	Docket No. C-2012-2305047
Joe & Vanessa Caparo	:	Docket No. C-2011-2276731
V.	:	
PPL Electric Utilities Corporation	:	

RESPONSE OF PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES CORPORATION TO THE REQUEST FOR WAIVER AND NEW MATTER FILED BY COVINGTON TOWNSHIP

TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DAVID A. SALAPA:

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation ("PPL Electric") hereby files this Response to the New Matter filed by Covington Township pursuant to Section 5.63 of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's ("Commission") regulations, 52 Pa. Code § 5.63. For the reasons explained below, Covington Township's New Matter should be denied.

Preliminarily, PPL Electric notes that the Covington Township filed a "Request for Waiver to File Answer and New Matter to Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation" ("Waiver"). In its Waiver, Covington Township seeks to file a *nunc pro tunc* answer and new matter to the "Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for a Finding that a Building to Shelter Control Equipment at the North Pocono 230-69 kV Substation in Covington Township, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania is Reasonably Necessary for the Convenience or Welfare of the Public" ("North Pocono Zoning Petition"), which was filed on December 28, 2012, at Docket No. P-2012-2340871. PPL Electric denies that the Waiver sets forth sufficient grounds to

warrant a waiver of the time established by the Commission for filing an answer and new matter to a petition. Moreover, as clearly explained in Prehearing Order No. 1 issued by Administrative Law Judge David A. Salapa on January 8, 2013, any entity wishing to become a party to this proceeding must file a either a petition to intervene or a protest on or before February 27, 2013. To the extent that Covington Township intends to participate in this matter, its remedy is to file a timely protest or petition to intervene. For this reason, Covington Township's request for a waiver is procedurally improper and should be denied.

Notwithstanding, and without waiver of the forgoing, PPL Electric herein responds to the each of the separately- number paragraphs set forth in the New Matter of Covington Township as follows:

- 50. Admitted. It is admitted that the North Pocono Zoning Petition was served on the Covington Township Planning Commission on December 28, 2012.
- 51. Admitted in part and denied in part. It is admitted that the Covington Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Complied 1998 ("SALDO"), is a publicly available written document, the terms of which speak for themselves. Any characterization or interpretation thereof is denied. By way of further response, it is specifically denied that the Covington Township SALDO applies to PPL Electric or the proposed Northeast-Reliability Project. See Newtown Twp. v. Philadelphia Elec. Co., 594 A.2d 834, 837 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1991) (noting that "it is clear that no 'implied' power exists in the [Municipalities Planning Code] which would allow the Township to regulate [the Philadelphia Electric Company] through its subdivision and land development ordinance").

¹ The separately numbered paragraphs of the New Matter begin with Paragraph 50. PPL Electric's response will correspond to the numbering set forth in the New Matter.

- 52. Denied. PPL Electric incorporates Paragraph 51, *supra*, as though fully set forth herein.
- 53. Denied. The averments set forth in Paragraph 53 of the New Matter are legal conclusions to which no responsive pleading is required. To the extent a response is deemed necessary, PPL Electric denies the same. By way of further response, PPL Electric believes that its control equipment buildings are not "buildings" but, rather, are parts of its substation facilities. The North Pocono Zoning Petition was filed as a precaution in the event that the Commission were to determine that the control equipment building is not a facility and, therefore, potentially subject to local zoning ordinances.

In further response, the lack of authority for a local municipality to regulate the design, location, or construction of public utility facilities is consistent with the long line of cases holding that public utilities are exempt from local ordinances. See Duquesne Light Company v. Monroeville Borough, 449 Pa. 573, 580, 298 A.2d 252, 256 (1972) ("This Court has consistently held, however, that the Public Utility Commission has exclusive regulatory jurisdiction over the implementation of public utility facilities") (citations omitted). See, e.g., County of Chester v. Philadelphia Elec. Co., 420 Pa. 422, 218 A.2d 331 (1966) (holding that regulation by a multitude of jurisdictions would result in "twisted and knotted" public utilities with consequent harm to the general welfare); Newtown Twp. v. Philadelphia Elec. Co., 594 A.2d 834, 837 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1991) (noting that "it is clear that no 'implied' power exists in the [Municipalities Planning Code] which would allow the Township to regulate [the Philadelphia Electric Company] through its subdivision and land development ordinance"); Heintzel v. Zoning Hearing Bd. of Millcreek Twp., 533 A.2d 832 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1987) (holding that township had no power to regulate, under its zoning ordinance, city's erection of water tower because that power was under the exclusive

jurisdiction of the PUC); South Coventry Twp. v. Philadelphia Elec. Co., 504 A.2d 368 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1986) (noting that to possibly subject [the Philadelphia Electric Company] to a miscellaneous collection of regulations upon its system would clearly burden and indeed disable it from successfully functioning as a utility); Commonwealth v. Delaware and Hudson Railway Co., 339 A.2d 155 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1975) (holding that the [Municipalities Planning Code] did not authorize local governments to regulate public utilities in any manner which infringes upon the power of the Commission to so regulate).

Further, the General Assembly has specifically exempted such buildings from local ordinances if the Commission finds that the building is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public. See Section 619 of the Municipalities Planning Code, Act of July 31, 1968, P.L. 805, as amended, 53 P.S. § 10619. As clearly explained in the North Pocono Zoning Petition, the Northeast-Pocono Reliability Project, including the North Pocono 230-69 kV Substation, is necessary to provide reasonable service by resolving planning and reliability guidelines violations, and reinforce the existing 138/69 kV systems in Monroe, Carbon, Wayne, Lackawanna, and Pike Counties by creating a 230 kV line to bring a new 230 kV supply into the area. The North Pocono 230-69 kV Substation must include certain equipment in order to operate properly, and said equipment must be protected from the elements. The most efficient and appropriate means of protecting the equipment at this Substation is construction of a Control Equipment Building on the site proposed for the new North Pocono 230-69 kV Substation. Because the Northeast Pocono Reliability Project, including the North Pocono 230-69 kV Substation, is reasonably necessary for the public convenience and welfare, the control equipment building is reasonably necessary and, therefore, exempt from the

Covington Township's ordinances pursuant to Section 619 of the Municipalities Planning Code. Del-AWARE Unlimited, Inc. v. Pa. P.U.C., 513 A.2d 593 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1986).

- 54. Denied. The averments set forth in Paragraph 54 of the New Matter are legal conclusions to which no responsive pleading is required. To the extent a response is deemed necessary, PPL Electric denies the same. By way of further response, PPL Electric incorporates Paragraphs 51 and 53, *supra*, as though fully set forth herein.
- 55. Admitted. It is admitted that Covington Township has adopted an ordinance electing to enforce the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, 35 P.S. §§ 7210.101-7210.1103. By way of further response, PPL Electric incorporates Paragraph 53, *supra*, as though fully set forth herein.
- 56. Denied. Section 501 of the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, 35 P.S. § 7210.501, is a statute, the terms of which speak for themselves. Any interpretation or characterization thereof is denied.
- 57. Denied. The averments set forth in Paragraph 57 of the New Matter are legal conclusions to which no responsive pleading is required. To the extent a response is deemed necessary, PPL Electric denies the same. By way of further response, PPL Electric incorporates Paragraph 53, *supra*, as though fully set forth herein.
- 58. Denied. The averments set forth in Paragraph 58 of the New Matter are legal conclusions to which no responsive pleading is required. To the extent a response is deemed necessary, PPL Electric denies the same. By way of further response, PPL Electric incorporates Paragraph 53, *supra*, as though fully set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation respectfully requests that Administrative Law Judge David A. Salapa deny the New Matter of Covington Township and find that the control equipment building proposed by PPL Electric Utilities Corporation at the North Pocono 230-69 kV Substation is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public and, therefore, are exempt from the local ordinances of Covington Township.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Russell (ID # 21643) Associate General Counsel PPL Services Corporation Office of General Counsel Two North Ninth Street Allentown, PA 18106 Phone: 610-774-4254 610-774-6726

E-mail:perussell@pplweb.com

Of Counsel:

Post & Schell, P.C.

Date: February 28, 2013

David B. Mac@regor (ID # 28804)

Post & Schell, P.C. Four Penn Center

1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard Philadelphia, PA 19103-2808

Phone: 215-587-1197 215-320-4879

E-mail:dmacgregor@postschell.com

John H. Isom (ID # 16569)

Christopher T. Wright (ID # 203412)

Post & Schell, P.C. 17 North Second Street

12th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101-1601

Phone: 717-731-1970 Fax: 717-731-1985

E-mail: jisom@postschell.com E-mail: cwright@postschell.com

Attorneys for PPL Electric Utilities Corporation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Response** has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 2063
Market Street State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Attn: Office of Field Operations

Honorable Barry J. Schoch, PE, Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 9th Floor Flarrisburg, PA 17120 Attn: William J. Cressler, Chief Counsel

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Bureau for Historic Preservation Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 2nd Floor Harrisburg, PA 17120-0053 Attn: Mr. Douglas C. McLearen, Chief

Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission P.O. Box 3265 Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Office of Consumer Advocate 555 Walnut Street 5th Floor, Forum Place Harrisburg, PA 17101-1925

Office of Small Business Advocate Commerce Building 300 North Street, Suite 1102 Harrisburg, PA 17101 Lackawanna County Commissioners Lackawanna County Administration Bldg. 200 Adams Avenue, 6th Floor Scranton, PA 18503

Lackawanna County Planning Commission 135 Jefferson Avenue, 2nd Floor Scranton, PA 18503

Luzerne County Council Luzerne County Courthouse 200 N River Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

Luzerne County Planning Commission 20 N. Pennsylvania Avenue Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

Monroe County Commissioners 1 Quaker Plaza, Room 201 Stroudsburg, PA 18360-2141

Monroe County Planning Commission 1 Quaker Plaza, Room 106 Stroudsburg, PA 18360-2169

Wayne County Commissioners Wayne County Courthouse 925 Court Street Honesdale, PA 18431

Wayne County Planning Department 925 Court Street Honesdale, PA 18431

Bear Creek Township Board of Supervisors 3333 Bear Creek Boulevard Bear Creek Township, PA 18702

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Bear Creek Township Planning Commission 3333 Bear Creek Boulevard Bear Creek Township, PA 18702

Buck Township Board of Supervisors/Planning Commission 114 Buck Boulevard Bear Creek, PA 18602

Clifton Township Board of Supervisors 361 State Route 435 Clifton Township, PA 18424

Clifton Township Planning Commission 361 State Route 435 Clifton Township, PA 18424

Covington Township Board of Supervisors 20 Moffat Drive Covington Township, PA 18444

Covington Township Planning Commission 20 Moffat Drive Covington Township, PA 18444

Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors 32 Second Street PO Box 651 Gouldsboro, PA 18424

Lehigh Township Planning Commission 32 Second Street PO Box 651 Gouldsboro, PA 18424

Madison Township Board of Supervisors 3200 Madisonville Road Madison Township, PA 18444

Madison Township Planning Commission 3200 Madisonville Road Madison Township, PA 18444

Paupack Township Board of Supervisors 25 Daniels Road Lakeville, PA 18438

Paupack Township Planning Commission 25 Daniels Road Lakeville, PA 18438 Plains Township Board of Supervisors 126 North Main Street Plains, PA 18705

Plains Township Planning Commission 126 North Main Street Plains, PA 18705

Salem Township Board of Supervisors PO Box 278 Hamlin, PA 18427

Salem Township Planning Commission PO Box 278 Hamlin, PA 18427

Sterling Township Board of Supervisors PO Box 100 Sterling, PA 18463

Sterling Township Planning Commission PO Box 100 Sterling, PA 18463

Thornhurst Township Board of Supervisors HC1 Box 238-B, River Road Thornhurst, PA 18424-9313

Thornhurst Township Planning Commission HC1 Box 238-B, River Road Thornhurst, PA 18424-9313

Tobyhanna Township Board of Supervisors 105 Government Center Way Pocono Pines, PA 18350

Tobyhanna Township Planning Commission 105 Government Center Way Pocono Pines, PA 18350

Art Mrtg Borrower Prope 2010-5 10 Glenlake Pkwy S Twr, Ste 800 Atlanta, GA 30328

Margaret G. Arthur (Deceased) and Barbara A. Saurman, Trustees of the Residuary Trust of James C. Arthur

11 Brownstone Dr.
Horsham, PA 19044

RECEIVEL

ECEIVED

Blue Ridge Real Estate Company PO Box 707 Blakeslee, PA 18610-0707

Clifton Acres Inc C/O Wayne Moore 159 East Walton Place, Apt. 23 Chicago, IL 60611

Sylvester J. Coccia 310 W Mary St. Old Forge, PA 18518

Dietrich Hunting Club PO Box 39 Hooper John Clifford, PA 18413

Dianne L. Doss 390 Nelson Rd Monroe, NY 10950-4248

Fr E2 Property Holding LP 311 S Wacker Dr Ste 4000 Chicago, IL 60606

Fr First Ave Prop Holding LP 311 S. Wacker Dr., Ste 4000 Chicago, IL 60606

Donald W. Henderson & Louis V. Bellucci 7044 Se Harbor Circle Stuart, FL 34996

Bradley D. Hummel PO Box 216 Clifford, PA 18413

International Consolidated Investment Company C/O Arthur Kania
560 E Lancaster Ave, Ste 108
St. Davids, PA 19087

John F. and Veronica Iskra 11 Green Arrow Trail White Haven, PA 18661

Donald Januszewski 517 Ledgedale Rd. Lake Ariel, PA 18436-5571 John C. & Linda S. Justice 24874 US Highway 90 Sanderson, FL 32087

Anthony Lucas, Jr. & Lillian Lupas, et al C/O Joseph M. Blazosek, Esquire 341 Wyoming Avenue, Suite 9 West Pittston, PA 18643

Atty: Thomas E., Mark M. and J. Dean Mack C/O Heather K. Mack 281 Pierce Street Kingston, PA 18704

Christopher & Melinda Maros 586 Twin Rocks Rd Newfoundland, PA 18445-2156

Michael A. & Sue K. Mitch PO Box 428 Treichlers, PA 18086-0428

NLMS Inc 1170 Winola Rd Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Michael & Joanne Palermo 52 Rowan Ave Staten Island, NY 10306-5273

Peter & Francine Palermo 36 Rowan Ave Staten Island, NY 10306-5273

Edward R Schultz RR 1 Box 1360 Gouldsboro, PA 18424

Eylla Hughes Est C/O Judy Searfoss 38 Buck Blvd. White Haven, PA 18661-2130

Ronald G. & Gloria Sidovar 318 Polk Township Road Kunkletown, PA 18058 2013 FEB 28 PM 3: 07

Ronald Solt 1200 Thornhurst Rd. Bear Creek Twp, PA 18702-8212

Merel J. & Arlene J. Swingle 51 Swingle Ln Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Three Griffins Enterprises Inc PO Box 136 Hamlin, PA 18427-0136

Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Co PO Box 2400 Md 46-4 Tulsa, OK 74102-2400

US Industrial Reit II 9830 Colonnade Blvd, Ste 600 San Antonio, TX 78230

James L & Michaelene J Butler 9414 South Gary Avenue Tulsa, OK 74137

Susan Butler Reigeluth Avenue Des Chasseurs 20 Waterloo 1410 Belgium Grumble Knot LLC 2642 Route 940 Pocono Summit, PA 18346

Pennsylvania Glacial Till LLC PO Box 900 Blakeslee, PA 18610

Blueberry Mountain Realty LLC 57 Seaview Blvd Port Washington, NY 11050

Chris and Melinda Maros 586 Twin Rocks Rd Newfoundland, PA 18445-2156

Joe & Vanessa Caparo 12 Langan Road Covington Township, PA 18444

Brian Yeager, Esquire Solicitor Covington Township 116 N. Washington Avenue, Suite 400 PO Box 234 Scranton, PA 18501-0234

Michael F. Faherty, Esquire 225 Market Street, Suite 304 PO Box 1245 Harrisburg, PA 17108-1245 Counsel for: Lawrence Duda

Date: February 28, 2013

Christopher T. Wright

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