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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

March 23, 2013

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

RE: Docket # A-2012-2340872
Application of PPL Electric Utilities
Northeast-Pocono Reliability Project
West Pocono-North Pocono Segment

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

I ask the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to direct PPL to select the Alternative Route C transmission line from Blair Hill (approximately 2000 ft north where the proposed line crosses over Sassafrass Hill Road) and follow it as it approaches and crosses Route 435 and proceeds through the northern limits of the Covington Industrial Park. This alignment has already been proposed as an alternative by PPL, no substation change would be required, and would apparently not require any significant change in transmission line lengths nor would it create any more impact to state games lands or state forest. Furthermore, the reasons I believe that PPL should revert to the portion of Alternative Route C transmission line as indicated above are listed below:

1. PPL Electric Utilities Northeast-Pocono Reliability Project PUC application, does not include any quantitative criteria for recreational and conservation areas that are impacted within Big Bass Lake Community. Specifically, the Big Bass Lake Environmental Conservation Park and Recreation/Education Area, AKA ELM Park, is visually impacted by Alternative Route D-1 and is within 1500 feet from this Conservation, Recreation and Educational area utilized by children of all ages and adults. PPL's application ignores this area.
2. The selected Alternative D-1 is visible from the northern area of Big Bass Lake Community Association which we have been striving to keep quiet and peaceful.
3. Alternative Route D-1 through Covington Industrial Park is located just behind the westerly curb line of First Avenue. Employees of the industrial complex, delivery trucks

and maintenance workers for local utilities and grounds keeping will be subject to the electric and magnetic fields generated by the electric conductors parallel to First Avenue for over 1000 linear feet. The transmission line should be located behind the buildings within Covington Industrial Park rather than in front of the buildings.

4. Noise is a serious issue. Construction equipment and activities that generate significant noise should be limited to normal daylight working hours and comply with the local noise ordinances of Covington and Clifton Townships. Operation of the transmission line may create humming or vibration noises. PPL should strive to minimize operational noise.
5. I object to the use of herbicides for Vegetation Management. Vegetation should be controlled without the use of herbicides and be focused on biological agents, hand pulling, controlled burning and cutting. Use of herbicides near paved areas such as Alternative Route D-1 through Covington Industrial Park is not appropriate because of potential runoff directly to the pavement and thence to Roaring Brook. PPL approved herbicides include glyphosate, imazapyr, 2, 4-D, triclopyr and picloram. These are not benign chemicals. All of these are serious dangers to all life. As a member of Big Bass Lake Community I adhere to their strict permit requirement regarding herbicides which protect the environment within Big Bass Lake Community. PPL should respect the strict requirements regarding herbicide that Big Bass Lake Community has administered throughout the years.

I respectfully request PPL to consider my comments and re-evaluate the project's visual, noise, utility, wildlife, groundwater and surface water impacts. PPL should minimize the use of herbicides that can endanger human and animal health, pollute surface and ground water resources along the transmission line route.

In closing, based on the above comments, I recommend the Alternative Route C transmission line as the preferred alternative.

Sincerely, *Robert + Linda Hughes*

Name: *Robert + Linda Hughes*

Address: *18 River Ct,
Gouldsboro PA 18424*

Member, Big Bass Lake Community Association

Robert J. Hughes Jr.
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