

Vera Demchenko
42 Summit Circle
Lakeville, PA 18438
July 14, 2013

Rosemary Chiavetta, Sect.
PA Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Bldg.
400 North St. 2nd Floor N.
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RECEIVED

JUL 16 2013

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Dear Ms. Chiavetta:

I am writing in reference to Docket # A-2012-2340872. I understand that the deadline for filing an official complaint against PPL's proposed routing of high voltage lines in the Northeast/Pocono corridor expired in February 2013. I would like my complaint to become part of the public record and included in information given to Judge Salapa.

My general concern is with the proposed North Pocono to Paupack high voltage route tagged F1. Of particular concern is the line running along the ridge above Finn Swamp Road of Martin's Cove of Lake Wallenpaupack in Paupack Township. The points of concern are sevenfold:

1. *Lack of proper notification – PPL touts the number of meetings held and the number of letters sent. My contention is that meetings did not involve major stakeholders since they were held months when the many seasonal homeowners along Lake Wallenpaupack were not in residence i.e., October, February and March and that open houses were not held in Paupack Township, an epicenter of PPL activity.*

Letters were sent only to residents within 1000 feet of the proposed 230kV lines and not to the homeowners' associations that will be directly affected by the presence of these lines such as Briar Hill North, Briar Hill South and Oak Hill.

PPL inserts a pamphlet in bills called "Connect", which included very little information about the routes. No insert was included in our electric bills.

Newspapers published maps that were so tiny, you couldn't make out the exact location of the routes.

Last but not least, everytime I attempted to use the official PPL project website, I was unable to locate the lines vis-à-vis my home because an error statement appeared. I was unable to lodge a complaint through the website because of an unintelligible error statement.

Easy to use, it is not. I had to call and e-mail several times to learn the information I needed.

Why is proper lack of notification important? We had very little time to object to the proposed lines, and when PPL did their weighted study of 3 different proposed routes, our route had a lower public concern rating and therefore added to the reason our route was selected. Those who have objected to power lines on their property, are warned about eminent domain actions.

2. *Placement of 174 foot poles carrying 230kV power lines that require clear cutting of 150 feet beneath the entire length of the lines will cause probable runoff of water and herbicide into Lake Wallenpaupack which is less than 1500 feet from the lines to be positioned on the ridge*

above Finn Swamp Road. During this season's heavy rainfall, debris runoff appeared on Finn Swamp Road and entered Purdee Creek, a high value fishing creek that crosses beneath Finn Swamp Road and flows into Lake Wallenpaupack. Homes downhill from the powerlines may also suffer water runoff and soil erosion, which in turn puts silt into Lake Wallenpaupack. What will happen when the trees on the ridgeline are cut down?

3. Lake Wallenpaupack is the economic engine of this area of Wayne County. The families that recreate and live by the lake supply the taxes and the support for the local economy. Not only do we make it possible to fund the Wallenpaupack School District so that it has the third highest pupil expenditure in northeastern Pennsylvania, we also hire local contractors and craftsmen and women, patronize stores and support local philanthropic and cultural organizations. We pay the highest real estate taxes and yet are not contacted when a major event, such as the installation of these lines, occurs.

The poles that will be placed along Martin's Cove of Lake Wallenpaupack will be seen by all who recreate on the lake and live on and near its shoreline. Lines will also be seen along Goose Pond and Ledgesdale, all areas along the route 590 side of Lake Wallenpaupack.

Why is it important to preserve the sightlines of Lake Wallenpaupack? PPL Holtwood, a subsidiary of PPL can answer that question the best. It is their mission to preserve the pristine landscape and promote the ecological health of Lake Wallenpaupack. In enforcing its mission, it has strict regulations for shoreline owners; these include having only 5 foot wide walkways, being permitted to remove a very limited number of trees, not being able to move rocks or soil on the lakeshore etc.etc. We pay permit fees that are used for this enforcement effort. It is hypocrisy for the parent company to clear cut wide swaths of land so close to the lake and place poles and lines that affect the scenic beauty and health of Lake Wallenpaupack.

4. I have real concern for the destruction of areas along the proposed high voltage lines. Everywhere I drive in northeastern PA, whether it is along route 81 where I see the hillside in Lackawanna County defaced or here in Paupack Township where an electric substation is being constructed along Hoadley's Road. Hoadley's Road is the main route between Route 590 and Honesdale, the county seat. It was one of the most beautiful, rural, pristine roads in Wayne County. Now it looks like a scene from "Lord of the Rings" where the landscape is denuded to satisfy the powerlust of a wizard. Destruction of the landscape is total overkill and disgraceful. In Lakeville, my town, the lines will cross the cemetery, Methodist Church and township building and will run along Locklin Pond, an undeveloped jewel. Unfortunately, the owners of that piece of land have been served eminent domain papers. One of the owners, who lives on the property, happens to be my doctor, a general practitioner, who has served the community for more than 30 years. Will he stay? There are very few general practitioners in Wayne County.

Why am I concerned about the destruction of my area? Other than the obvious that it is ugly and may lead to decline in property values, the idea of conserving resources is thrown out the window. Not only will more and more electricity be made available, we will be paying more for it since the PUC has already approved a base rate increase to pay for this project. My base rate

went up 50% . To add injury to insult, PPL requested an additional 1% return in investment for this project. To the PUC's credit, they limited the amount to 10.4% return on investment. We are paying for the irrevocable destruction of our pastoral, and idyllic landscape. A place where many couples, who first came here with their young families, now will want to retire and share their love of this rural area with their grandchildren. Our quality of life is diminished.

5. PPL has touted this project time and time again as one which will provide reliability to this area. In reading PUC documents (electric service reliability in Pennsylvania 2011), I read that PPL has met all the 12 month and 3 year reliability standards set by the PUC. The graphs show that lightning causes more power outages than line failure or trees. PPL has requested and received modification to inspection and maintenance intervals from the PUC (modification to inspection and maintenance intervals (group2) submitted October 2010, effective January 1, 2012-December 31, 2013).

Our community has many power lines. If a tree falls on one of them, we will still lose power. If PPL does not inspect their lines or trim trees in a timely fashion, we will also lose power. I have lived in areas that have power lines below ground. Why don't we? If PPL costs are recovered from the rate payers, why hasn't PPL placed wires underground so that poles and wires don't mar the landscape and trees and lightning don't cause outages? Isn't this area worth preserving? Are the inhabitants of this area less worthy? After all the innovations in technology, why do we still rely on ugly lines above ground?

Why the big push for these gigantic power lines? Our county has grown slowly. Surrounding counties of Pike and Monroe have seen a much bigger population growth than our county. Wayne County has been able to maintain the pastoral setting that many retirees want. These proposed lines will alter our landscape forever.

6. Failure of the county and township leadership to object to the placement of proposed lines. Legislators and other political figures, when contacted, sound like they are reading from PPL materials. Commercial and industrial development should not be the driving force for accepting this project. Wayne County receives tremendous funds from those who recreate and will eventually retire in this area. All these people will vote. It is the pastoral, undeveloped nature of this county that draws people here to settle. Greater care for current lines will provide greater electric reliability to the homes in this area.
7. Organizations that rely upon the largesse of the PPL Corp will not object to the plans for this area. Too many political and organizational leaders depend upon PPL's contributions. Even associations of homeowners rely on PPL to grant permits for their community docks. They are fearful of objecting. As a stockholder, I thought PPL was a corporation that was client friendly and conscious of their ecological footprint, I no longer think so. Individuals think they have no power because they believe the goliath utility company will prevail.

In closing, I return to my primary concern, move the proposed lines along Martin's Cove so that they are not visible from Lake Wallenpaupack. *Bury the lines* so that Paupack Township doesn't suffer even more blight.

Sincerely,


Vera Demchenko

8.

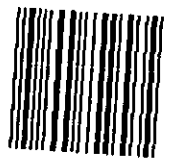


Ms. Vera Demchenko
 42 Summit Circle
 Lakeville, PA 18438

CERTIFIED MAIL



7012 3050 0000 9158 1815
 7017 -



1000

17105

U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 HAMLIN, PA
 18427
 JUL 16, 13
 AMOUNT

\$6.11
 00036441-13

*Ms. Rosemary Chianetta, Sec.
 Pa. Public
 Utility Commission
 Commonwealth Keystone Bldg.
 400 North St. 2nd Fl. D.
 P.O. Box 3265*

**RETURN RECEIPT
 REQUESTED**

1710533265
 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265