Before the Commission is the application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC for a certificate of public convenience to provide electric transmission service in Franklin and York Counties and for approval of its affiliated interest agreements. Transource PA is a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of Transource Energy, LLC and was formed to construct, own, operate and maintain electric transmission facilities and equipment in the Commonwealth. Prior to filing this Application, Transource Energy bid on and won the right to carry out its proposal to reduce congestion across the Pennsylvania and Maryland border with a proposal to PJM. According to the Application, the winning proposal was chosen as the project which provided the highest benefit-to-cost ratio and the greatest total congestion savings. Titled “the Independence Project,” the project itself is expected to save customers approximately $620 million over a 15-year period in congestion costs. Transource is bound to complete the project by June 1, 2020.

The Application brings a new type of entity to the Commonwealth, as electric transmission facilities have been owned and operated by the electric distribution companies or their transmission affiliates. Here, we are asked to certificate a company as a public utility as a necessary step prior to consideration of the siting and construction of the project this company was formed to carry out. The parties to this case have reached a settlement which is either signed by or not opposed by all parties, and there is no more opposition to the grant of a certificate of public convenience for Transource PA.

I note that the terms of the settlement include an express statement that the parties reserve their right to challenge the need for the Independence Project or any other project that Transource PA may seek to construct in the future. I emphasize that the certificate of public convenience granted by today’s action results in giving Transource PA the right to file siting applications in the future and does not grant the approval of any project, including the Independence Project.

Accordingly, by this Motion I seek to affirm the Initial Decision of Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth H. Barnes as amended by striking the second full paragraph of page 14 and with additions to the ordering paragraphs to provide specificity.
THEREFORE,

I MOVE:

1. That the Initial Decision of Elizabeth H. Barnes is affirmed as amended by this Motion.
2. That the second full paragraph on page 14 of the Initial Decision is stricken.
3. That Ordering Paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b) are amended to read:

   a. Begin to furnish and supply electric transmission service to or for the public within a transmission service area from the new Rice Substation in Franklin County, Pennsylvania to the Pennsylvania/Maryland border for PJM Project 9A, baseline upgrade numbers b2743 and b2752; and

   b. Begin to furnish and supply electric transmission service to or for the public within a transmission service area from the new Furnace Run Substation in York County, Pennsylvania to the Pennsylvania/Maryland border for PJM Project 9A, baseline upgrade numbers b2743 and b2752.

4. That the Office of Special Assistants prepare an appropriate order consistent with this Motion.

December 21, 2017
Date

David W. Sweet
Commissioner