

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC

Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Supchapter G

For Approval of the Siting and Construction of the 230 kV Transmission Line

Associated with the Independence Energy Connection-West Project in Portions of Franklin County

Docket No. A-2017-2640200

**PROTEST**

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Sections 5.51, *et seq.* and 66 Pa. C. S. Sections 1101, *et seq.*, Brian Brechbill owner of DC farms LLC files this Protest to the Independence Energy Connection-West. In support of this Protest, Brian Brechbill owner of DC farms LLC avers as follows:

Contact Information  
Brian Brechbill  
13689 Dream Highway  
Newburg, PA 17240

Affected property address  
DC Farms LLC  
5730 Orphanage Road  
Waynesboro, PA 17268

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 15 2018  
PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

I am Brian Brechbill, DC Farms LLC, property owner, business owner, and rate payer. I raise crops and feed cattle on this property. The crops I grow either feed cattle or get sold to market. The crops I feed to cattle for yardage compensation as part of my income. In today's cattle and farming economics I am constantly expanding upon the existing infrastructure that I have previously built and bought in order to stay financially viable. This means buildings and facilities used to house cattle, feed cattle, remove waste and care for cattle have already been established, to suddenly be limited upon expansion where the existing infrastructure has been built and established is a detrimental blow to the business. To put such an easement and structures on our agricultural land will limit future expansion just as it would at a manufacturing facility or park. Huge investments of money have been invested for the current stages and future stages of the farming operation. The other major concern to any cattle business is stray voltage. The configuration of placing new transmission lines parallel, co-located near distribution lines have been identified to pick up induced voltages as identified by other transmission companies and electrical engineers. The risks to cattle from stray voltage can ruin a cattle enterprise as it has in the past, you don't have to look too far to find documented cases. Stray voltage is taken very seriously and can have detrimental financial effects to a cattle business.

I produce crops on the farming operation that are used to feed the cattle and some crops go to market. I use precision farming and best management practices for soil, water, weed, and pest management, additionally we use no till and cover crop practices. Huge investments have been made in the precision planting equipment with GPS technology that guides the equipment through the field. To maneuver this large equipment around these structures is timely and will have cost associated for every year to come. The construction and placement of these transmission structures including how one might maintain and access structures will impact my operation in the following ways, create problems for turning field machinery and maintaining efficient fieldwork patterns, create opportunities for weed and other pest encroachment, compact soils and damage soil health, hindering or preventing aerial spraying or seeding activities by planes or helicopters, creating safety hazards while maintaining machinery in the area, hindering future consolidation of farm fields. Producing crops today is very expensive and takes into account so many delicate facets, and if any one is disturbed or interrupted it can cause a failure to the crop. A crop failure can cause huge financial losses to a cropping business.

Access to the easement for construction and maintenance is a huge concern, this will be above and beyond what has been openly disclosed and discussed by Transource for the need of the line. What else has not been discussed and disclosed?


Despite what the "leading" health experts are paid to say, I do feel strongly that working next to high voltage power lines do pose a risk to our health and our employee's health. I am not willing to find out who may or may not be correct. The increased risks of servicing and fueling equipment anywhere near the line is a great safety concern. Nuisance shocks for me and my employees and livestock are a grave concern.

As an affected ratepayer of Pennsylvania my research shows that there is no benefit to me. I only carry the cost of the project as ratepayers. PA utilities are to pay their share of the cost to install the proposed transmission line which will be passed on to all rate paying customers in their now "unbundled" transmission component charges. No one has been able to demonstrate how the stated multi-million dollar "cost savings" proposed by Transource could actually be passed back to the typical PA electric customer. Again No one has been able to show how the costs to be added to the transmission rate component for local electric customers due to paying their calculated fair share of the transmission upgrade will come back to PA customers versus the market efficiency savings benefitting and being distributed amongst power marketers and financial institutions in the receiving State and region. With these major questions left with no answers and we are left based on the facts that this project is not in my best interest as a ratepayer.

This project will cost my farm far more than the meager amount of money that will be obtainable by placing an easement. The effects of this project will be felt for decades to come. The effects on my farm and business are not taken into account. For Transource to describe (filling quote) "the vast majority of the project is located on undeveloped land" they have then already said they are not prepared to take into account all the effects that this project will have on our property and businesses. Transource is not equipped or financed to deal with developed farmland and civilized folks as they have been proving that with their harassing land agents. Transource has openly admitted that cost to benefit ratio has declining since it was originally prepared. If taken into account the cost burden of the landowners and ratepayers and that with the fact that most all projects go over budget, there is no question in our mind that this project does not have a benefit, only cost. With PJM's seemly defiant lack of transparency openly seen in the courts, we plead to the honorable commissioners to make PJM and Transource transparent for all to see, show the need with real numbers, and take into real account for what is truly being taken and the cost associated.

I Brian Brechbill, DC farms LLC respectfully request that this project be denied in whole based on the truth. As a landowner, I am requesting that all hearings be held here locally in Franklin County. Please hold full hearing regarding the filing. I am also requesting site visits by the Judges to see first hand how this affects me. I will not be making any voluntary agreements for the use and destruction of my property.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Brian Brechbill, DC Farms LLC

Dated: 2-14-2018

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**VERIFICATION**

I, [Name of Protestant], hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct (or are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief) and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: 2-14-2018

*Ben P. Brumba*

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(Signature)

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Re: Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for Approval of the Siting and Construction of the 230kV Transmission Line Associated with the Independence Energy Connection-West Project in Portions of Franklin County, Pennsylvania Docket No. A-2017-2640200

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing Petition to Intervene upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below:

Dated 2-14-2018

**SERVICE BY FIRST CLASS MAIL**

The Honorable Elizabeth H. Barnes  
The Honorable Andrew M. Calvelli  
Administrative Law Judges  
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Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

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Secretary PA Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Bldg.  
400 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17120

  
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[Signature of Protestant]

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Rosemary Chiavetta Secretary  
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