

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Docket No. A-2017-2640200 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, Pennsylvania

Docket No. A-2017-2640200

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## PROTEST

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Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Sections 5.51, et seq. and 66 Pa. C. S. Sections 1101, et. seq., Ashley Hospelhorn files this Protest to the Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Docket No. A-2017-2640200 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, Pennsylvania. In support of this Protest, Ashley Hospelhorn avers as follows:

1. The name and contact information of the Protestant is as follows:

Ashley Hospelhorn  
8010 Hidden Valley Lane  
Waynesboro, PA 17268

2. I am a residential property owner within close proximity to the proposed route of the 230 kV Transmission Line Associated with the Independence Energy Connection-West Project. I am also a business owner providing building contracting, trades and services for the development of residential and commercial properties in the region. But, more importantly I am a lifelong resident of the general area through which the proposed line is to traverse. This proposed transmission line causes me grave concern for the health and safety of my family, the degradation of the pastoral aesthetic of my ancestral home, and the reduction of property values for myself and my community.

3. Property values in Franklin County suffered more severely than other areas in the Mid-Altantic region after the 2008 economic downturn. In more recent years, we have seen some progress in our real estate valuations. The introduction of this transmission line will only serve to further slow, or possibly even reverse our property value recovery. It's ironic and unfortunate that we find ourselves to be victims of location in the larger scheme of things. We are stuck between the major regional sources of power and the major regional consumers of power. We will not realize any of the projected electric rate reductions of this project, nor will we see any lasting increase of economic activity from this project, but

we will suffer a permanent reduction of real estate values, if it is approved and built.

There are Health and Safety aspects of this project that also concern me. While I have reviewed the available literature and respect the authoritative assessments about relative safety of high voltage transmission lines, study results that end with statements like “no correlation can be found” or “no unsafe levels of exposure can be identified” are largely unsatisfying. History is full of examples where products or practices were deemed safe or even healthful, until they were ultimately found to be deadly. Barring any absolute assurances, one must rely on intuition, and mine tells me to stay as far away from it as possible. This in turn, limits my and my family’s ability to enjoy the outdoors in our community, something we have grown up with – implementation of this project will create an unwelcome lifestyle change for us.

The complex organizational structure involved with this power transmission service is disconcerting from a safety aspect. I’m afraid the residents of Franklin county (neither providers nor consumers of this service), may not be heard or informed when safety incidents occur. This kind of interstate commerce, where the parties involved are all outside the jurisdiction of the state and unreachable by innocent bystanders is disturbing.

One of the more valued aspects of properties in Franklin County, including the value of my own property, is the general bucolic nature of the area presented by the mixture of farmlands, mountain views, woodlands, and small residential communities respectfully spaced to promote a comfortable feel. This atmosphere is what people fall in love with when they move here, and like me and most of my family and friends, it is what we fondly think of as home. It is a rare and unique life experience to follow the generations before you who lived and grew in the midst of such beauty and to hope that subsequent generations will too.

In some of the “constructability” studies assessing this project and comparing it to others, there were frequent mentions of rare and endangered wildlife species that might get in the way of construction or need to be avoided. However, in the studies there was no consideration or mention of the disrupted *human* species located in between the power producers and consumers whose habitat would be disrupted – *we rare specimens* paying a price for no benefit, even beyond the life cycle of the project. The senseless development of this transmission line that provides no local benefit should not be allowed to proceed.

4. The PJM cost/benefit analysis that led to the selection of this solution to the problems of over-development south and east of our area fails to identify (or even acknowledge) the collateral damage that we will suffer in Franklin County. I believe it is the duty of the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission to be our advocate in the regional market. For the PA PUC, the scope of the term *public need* should be limited to the *needs* of the Pennsylvania *public* who are directly effected by the construction and presence of this transmission line. There is no market efficiency for me or other residence of Franklin County in this plan.

I can appreciate that the power industry is approaching a new kind of problem with this issue. The goals of deregulation and allowing market forces to drive the management of power distribution is laudable as a concept. The complexities of a deregulated environment with distributed power generation and no centralized control over where demand is concentrated makes reality much more difficult. There needs to be some better solution to improve market efficiency. A solution that does not require sacrifice of innocent bystanders.

In a regional grid, with federally approved operators manipulating a patchwork of state regulators and balancing the needs of competing power providers, it may take some bold action on the

part of the PA PUC to advocate for some new kind of compensation or accommodation for the folks stuck in the middle like we are in Franklin County. Simply stated, we are being asked to accommodate and endure the disruption and economic consequences of a transmission line that we will not benefit from as energy producers or energy consumers. Neither I nor anyone in my community will realize any money from the millions cited as future savings in the proposal. In a truly and purely deregulated market that would be an unrealistic expectation for both the consumers and producers – unrealistic that a third party would provide *gratis* economic support of the transaction.

WHEREFORE, Ashley Hospelhorn respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission 1.) not approve the subject application in Docket No. A-2017-2640200, and 2) encourage PJM to pursue alternate methods to solve the transmission congestion issues at the APSouth interface, and 3) advocate with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, PJM and others for the development of some market mechanism to compensate communities that do not realize economic benefit from transmission lines constructed for the purpose of market efficiencies.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_ signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: February 19, 2018

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 February 19, 2018

SERVICE BY E-MAIL and FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Elizabeth H. Barnes  
The Honorable Andrew M. Calvelli  
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\_\_\_\_\_signed\_\_\_\_\_