



County of Bucks

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Bucks County Courthouse

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County Commissioners

CHARLES H. MARTIN, *Chairman*

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DIANE M. ELLIS-MARSEGLIA, LCSW

March 10, 2009

Mr. James H. Cawley, Chairman
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: PPL Electric (PPL) Application; Coopersburg tap, Docket #A-2008-2022941

Dear Chairman Cawley,

We, the Board of Bucks County Commissioners, are writing to urge the Public Utility Commission and its Commissioners to review PPL's application to implement a new high voltage transmission line and a major substation control facility in a rural area of Springfield Township, Bucks County. This project involves the Cross Country Corridor and Hickon Rd. substation sites.

Prior to making this request, we have reviewed the community's reservations and petition and the testimony of environmental experts. We believe that the application may be lacking in some respects. Specifically, we cite the opposing testimony of PPL's own expert in the Mellon report of July, 2007, as well as the project review offered by Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) during April, 2008:

“Construction of the Cross Country Route will destroy or degrade several miles of intact riparian and upland forest within the Tohickon Creek watershed.”

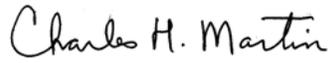
We are concerned by PPL's determination that the transmission line alternatives must be tied to a new rural substation site – seemingly without consideration of possible sites for this facility in other, commercial regions of our county. We are proud to note that Bucks County is a unique region of our Commonwealth, one that is world-renowned for its historic character and natural beauty. A seven-acre substation facility may have an impact on that character.

In addition, we are told that impact studies may not have been conducted on the 85-acre Hickon Rd. substation site. This is a known flood plain adjacent to the headwaters of the Tohickon Creek, a valued watershed that recharges groundwater in this region.

We appreciate that there is a need to upgrade capacity to meet electrical needs in neighboring areas. To that end, we ask that you consider the Springfield Functional Configuration, a plan that has been developed by an expert and proposed by the township.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Martin
Chairman



James F. Cawley, Esq.



Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW