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File #: 2507/140066

January 19, 2010

BY HAND

James J. McNulty  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North  
PO Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RECEIVED  
2010 JAN 19 PM 1:27  
PA PUC  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

**RE: Letter of Notification of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57 Subchapter G, With respect To The Beltzville #1 & #2 138/69 kV Tap Lines in Towamensing Township, Carbon County, Pennsylvania  
Docket No. A-~~2009~~**

Dear Secretary McNulty:

Enclosed, for filing, are an original and six (6) copies of the Letter of Notification of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, together with seven (7) copies of the accompanying exhibits and appendices which are contained in a separately-bound volume.

As indicated on the enclosed certificate of service, copies of the Letter of Notification and accompanying exhibits and appendices are being served by certified mail, return receipt requested upon all affected land owners and involved governmental agencies and municipalities. If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at the addresses or telephone numbers provided above.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher T. Wright

CTW/skr

Enclosures

cc: Certificate of Service

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Re: Letter Of Notification Of PPL Electric :  
Utilities Corporation, Filed Pursuant To 52 :  
Pa. Code Chapter 57 Subchapter G, With : Docket No. A-2009-  
Respect To The Beltzville #1 & #2 138/69 :  
kV Tap Lines In Towamensing Township, :  
Carbon County, Pennsylvania :

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**SECRETARY'S BUREAU**

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**LETTER OF NOTIFICATION**

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TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (“PPL Electric”), hereby files, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §57.72(d), this Letter of Notification to request that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) approve the siting and construction of the Beltzville #1 and #2 138/69 kV Tap Lines, which will be approximately 300 feet in length and will connect the existing East Palmerton-Wagners #1 and #2 138/69 Transmission Lines with the proposed Beltzville 69-12 kV Substation in Towamensing Township, Carbon County, Pennsylvania. In support thereof, PPL Electric states as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

1. This Letter of Notification is filed by PPL Electric, Two North Ninth Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101, a public utility that provides electric distribution and provider of last resort services in Pennsylvania subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Commission.

2. PPL Electric's attorneys are:

David B. MacGregor (Pa. Bar I.D. #28804)  
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Paul E. Russell (Pa. Bar I.D. #21643)  
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PPL Services Corporation  
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PPL Electric's attorneys are authorized to receive all notices and communications regarding this Letter of Notification.

3. PPL Electric furnishes electric service to approximately 1.4 million customers throughout its certificated service territory, which includes all or portions of twenty-nine counties and encompasses approximately 10,000 square miles in eastern and central Pennsylvania. PPL Electric is a "public utility" and an "electric distribution company" as defined in Sections 102 and 2803 of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 102,

2803. PPL Electric is a “public utility corporation” as defined in Section 1103 of the Business Corporation Law of 1988, 15 Pa. C.S. § 1103.

4. PPL Electric owns approximately 5,000 miles of transmission lines operating at 69,000 volts or higher, approximately 330 substations with a capacity of 10,000 KVA or more, and approximately 43,000 miles of distribution lines operating at less than 69,000 volts.

5. This Letter of Notification includes the following accompanying exhibits and appendices:

- Exhibit A – Necessity Statement.
- Exhibit B – Engineering Description.
- Exhibit C – Environmental Assessment.
- Appendix A – PPL Electric Design Criteria and Safety Practices.
- Appendix B – PPL Electric Field Management Program.
- Appendix C – List of Property Owners Within the Proposed Right-of-Way.
- Appendix D – List of Involved Governmental Agencies, Municipalities, and Other Public Entities.

6. PPL Electric proposes to construct the Beltzville #1 and #2 138/69 kV Tap Lines (“Beltzville Taps”), which will be approximately 300 feet in length and will connect the existing East Palmerton-Wagners #1 and #2 138/69 Transmission Lines with the proposed Beltzville 69-12 kV Substation (“Beltzville Substation”) in Towamensing Township, Carbon County, Pennsylvania. The proposed Beltzville Taps are required to reduce load and the number of customers served by local distribution lines, improve reliability of service, and increase operational flexibility in the vicinity of Towamensing Township, Carbon County. The present facilities that supply that area exceed the normal planning guidelines based on PPL Electric’s Reliability Principles and Practices (“RP&P”). These radial distribution lines exceed the RP&P

by having excessive customers on each feeder. The Beltzville Taps and the proposed Beltzville Substation will relieve the loading and reduce the number of customers on the existing distribution facilities.

7. The existing distribution lines are radial lines, which limit transfer capability and increases the duration of outages. The project will eliminate the main radial portion of the existing distribution lines and provide a backup source to serve customer load and prevent outages.

8. Due to the small size of the tap lines and the presence of other transmission facilities in the area, it is anticipated that the Beltzville Taps will have minimal impacts on the area. The estimated cost of the Beltzville Taps is approximately \$500,000. Construction is scheduled to commence in March 2010, to support an in-service date of November 2010.

## **II. PROJECT SUMMARY**

9. The Beltzville Taps are located entirely in Towamensing Township, Carbon County. An aerial plot plan is provided at the end of Exhibit B to this Letter of Notification. The plot plan depicts the location of the existing and proposed facilities.

10. The proposed Beltzville Taps will be approximately 300 feet in length. It will connect the existing East Palmerton-Wagners #1 and #2 138/69 kV Transmission Lines with the proposed Beltzville Substation. The purpose of the Beltzville Taps, together with the proposed Beltzville Substation, is to provide an additional source of supply to customers in the vicinity of Towamensing Township, Carbon County. The Beltzville Taps and Beltzville Substation are needed because, presently, the load and number of customers served by existing facilities exceeds the RP&P guidelines for normal planning. Additionally, the existing distribution facilities are radial lines, which have limited transfer capabilities and require manual switching.

11. Presently, customers in the Towamensing Township area are served from the Gilbert 69-12 kV Substation via the existing Gilbert 78-2 and Gilbert 78-3 12 kV distribution lines. Customers in the area are also served from the Weissport 69-12 kV substation via the existing Weissport 75-3 12 kV distribution line.

12. The existing Gilbert 78-3 12 kV distribution line exceeds the normal planning guideline set forth in PPL Electric's RP&P. The normal and emergency ratings of the 336 kcmil aluminum conductor of the Gilbert 78-3 12 kV distribution line are 10 and 12 MVA, respectively. The line, however, reached a peak load 10.7 MVA during 2008, and the peak load on the distribution line forecasted for the winter of 2010 is 11.0 MVA.

13. The existing Weissport 75-3, Gilbert 78-2, and Gilbert 78-3 distribution lines are radial lines that have no back up source that can be utilized during unplanned outages. Further, service to customers served by the existing Weissport 75-3, Gilbert 78-2, and Gilbert 78-3 distribution lines cannot be restored by remote switching. Additionally, the existing Weissport 75-3, Gilbert 78-2, and Gilbert 78-3 currently exceed PPL Electric's RP&P of 1,300 customers on each feeder.

14. To alleviate these problems, PPL Electric plans to construct the new Beltzville Substation and connecting lines, including the Beltzville Taps. When the Beltzville Substation and Beltzville Taps are complete, the reinforcement will reduce the peak loading on the existing Weissport 75-3, Gilbert 78-2, and Gilbert 78-3 distribution lines by 4.0 MVA, 2.1 MVA, and 3.7 MVA, respectively. This load transfer will make capacity available at the Weissport and Gilbert Substations and will allow for transfer capability between the three substations during maintenance and equipment outages.

15. The Beltzville Taps will be designed as a double-circuit 138/69 kV transmission tap line that will extend 300 feet from the existing East Palmerton-Wagners #1 and #2 138-69 kV Transmission Lines to the proposed Beltzville Substation. Both Beltzville Taps will be constructed into the new Beltzville Substation. The tap lines will be tied together for operating flexibility. Initially, Beltzville #1 Tap and transformer #1 will be connected to the Beltzville Substation. The Beltzville #2 Tap will not be connected to the Beltzville Substation until a second transformer is installed when future load increases make it appropriate to do so. The Beltzville Taps will be designed and constructed for 138 kV operation, although they initially will operate at 69 kV.

16. The Beltzville Taps will be approximately 300 feet in length. The project will require a high tap structure that will be approximately 115 feet in height, and a low tap structure that will be approximately 60 feet in height. The remaining four poles, including two for load sectionalizing air break switches, will be approximately 80 feet in height. Each circuit will consist of three power conductors and one overhead ground wire. The power conductors will be 556.6 KCMIL,<sup>1</sup> 24/7 strand ACSR.<sup>2</sup> The overhead ground wire will be 3/8-inch steel and will provide lightning protection for the proposed Tap Lines.

17. The Beltzville Taps will be designed to comply with, and will generally surpass, the applicable minimum standards in the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).

18. The estimated cost of the Beltzville Taps is \$500,000. This amount does not include the cost of the Beltzville Substation or the distribution work related thereto.

19. Construction is scheduled to commence in March 2010, for an in service date of November 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> Thousand circular Mils.

<sup>2</sup> Aluminum conductor steel reinforced.

20. The proposed Tap Lines will be located on two parcels of land in Towamensing Township, Carbon County. PPL Electric requires a new right-of-way over and across one residential property in order to construct the proposed Beltzville Taps. This parcel is mostly a cultivated field with a residential dwelling and is traversed by existing transmission lines. The owner has agreed to execute a right-of-way agreement for the required easement. The second parcel is owned by PPL Electric.

21. Because the proposed Beltzville Taps will be only 300 feet in length and will be installed in the vicinity of the existing East Palmerton-Wagners #1 and #2 138/69 kV and Susquehanna-Wescosville 500 kV Transmission Lines, it is anticipated that the Beltzville Taps will have minimal impacts on the area. There will be little incremental environmental impact because the area is agricultural and is traversed by existing electrical facilities.

22. Accompanying this Letter of Notification is a separately bound volume containing Exhibits A – C and Appendices A – D, which provide additional information about the Beltzville Taps. This Letter of Notification and accompanying Exhibits and Appendices, which are incorporated herein by reference, contain all the information required by 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(4).

### **III. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION**

23. PPL Electric is proceeding by means of a Letter of Notification, instead of a full Application, pursuant to the Commission's regulations at 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d). The Beltzville Taps qualify for use of a Letter of Notification because they will be less than two miles in length.

24. The Necessity Statement for the Beltzville Taps is provided as Exhibit "A" in the Exhibits and Appendices accompanying this Letter of Notification. As explained in greater

detail there, the purpose of the Beltzville Taps is to improve the reliability of service and to reduce load on the existing facilities in the vicinity of Towamensing Township, Carbon County.

25. In determining the need for the Beltzville Taps, PPL Electric considered one functional alternative. The functional alternative considered would have involved the installation of additional 12 kV distribution lines. This alternative would require multiple 12 kV distribution lines along the same routes as the existing Weissport 75-3, Gilbert 78-2, and Gilbert 78-3 distribution line to reduce load on the existing facilities. However, using the same line route would not improve reliability because the distribution lines proposed in the functional alternative would be exposed to the same potential outages as the existing facilities. Additionally, the proposed lines, as well as the existing lines, would continue to be radial lines with limited transfer capabilities. Moreover, this functional alternative would be more expensive to implement, with an estimated cost of \$4.0 million. PPL Electric did not further pursue this functional alternative because the preferred alternative provides additional reliability and operating flexibility, and allows for better long-term planning for the entire area.

26. The proposed Beltzville Taps will not create any unreasonable risk of danger to the public health or safety. The Beltzville Taps will be designed, constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that meets or surpasses all applicable NESC minimum standards and all applicable legal requirements. Descriptions of NESC standards, PPL Electric's design criteria, and PPL Electric's safety practices are provided in Appendix A hereto.

27. The Engineering Description of the Beltzville Taps is provided in Exhibit "B" in the Exhibits and Appendices accompanying this Letter of Notification.

28. The proposed Beltzville Taps will be located in part on land owned by PPL Electric and in part on a second tract of land. Although PPL Electric requires a new right-of-way

for the proposed Beltzville Taps across the tract of land that PPL Electric does not own, the owner has agreed to execute a right-of-way agreement for the required easement. Consequently, at this time, no additional land or rights-of-way need to be acquired for the Beltzville Taps.

29. Visual impacts of Beltzville Taps are expected to be minimal and incremental based on the fact that the Beltzville Taps will be only 300 feet in length and will be in the vicinity of existing transmission facilities.

30. No communication towers, pipelines or other utilities will be affected by the proposed Beltzville Taps. The nearest airport is approximately 2.3 miles from the proposed Beltzville Taps. PPL Electric will contact the PennDOT Bureau of Aviation and the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure that the proposed Beltzville Taps will not be a hazard to flight operations.

31. The proposed Beltzville Taps were reviewed with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The following lists were reviewed for the presence of historical districts and structures in the area:

- National Historic Landmarks in Pennsylvania
- National Register Historic Districts in Pennsylvania
- National Register Individual Properties and Historic Districts in Pennsylvania
- National Register/Listed and Eligible Properties in Pennsylvania

The PHMC has determined that, due to the absence of historical sites and the small project size, no further archaeological investigations are required.

32. The proposed Beltzville Taps will not affect any unique geological, scenic, or natural areas. The proposed Beltzville Taps are located approximately 2.5 miles from the Stony Ridge area and approximately 5.15 miles from the Lehigh Gap area. These features will not be

affected by the proposed Beltzville Taps due to their distance from the project area and development between the project area and these features.

33. No national natural landmarks, parks, recreational facilities or natural areas are located near the project area. The proposed Beltzville Taps are located approximately 0.5 miles from the Beltzville State Park and approximately 4.22 miles from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. These features will not be affected by the proposed Beltzville Taps due to their distance from the project area and development between the project area and these features.

34. The Beltzville Taps will not cross any wetlands or other aquatic resources. PPL Electric will acquire and comply with any required soil erosion and sedimentation control permit conditions.

35. Some tree clearing is required for the proposed Beltzville Taps. PPL Electric will apply its “Specification for Initial Clearing and Control of Vegetation on or Adjacent to Electric Line Right-of-Way Through Use of Herbicides, Mechanical and Hand Clearing Techniques” to mitigate any impacts.

36. PPL Electric has consulted with state and federal agencies to obtain information regarding endangered and threatened species in close proximity to the Beltzville Taps. A review of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory records indicates there are potential impacts under the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (“DCNR”) regulations. As a result, DCNR has recommended that PPL Electric retain a qualified expert to conduct a survey of the area at the appropriate time of year. PPL Electric complied with DCNR’s request and sent documentation of the findings to DCNR. PPL Electric has obtained correspondence from DCNR, dated December 4, 2009, stating that no impacts are anticipated and no further coordination is need for this project.

37. The Beltzville Taps were reviewed with representatives of Towamensing Township and Carbon County. The Township and the County have no objection to the Beltzville Taps.

38. Appendix B in the Exhibits and Appendices accompanying this Letter of Notification explains PPL Electric's standards for Magnetic Field Management.

39. Appendix D accompanying this Letter of Notification contains a list of the involved governmental agencies, municipalities and other public entities.

40. Copies of this Letter of Notification are being served on the agencies listed in Appendix D in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(3).

41. As soon as practicable after the filing of this Letter of Notification and the assignment by the Commission of a docket number, PPL Electric will publish notice of the filing in newspapers of general circulation in the area of the proposed Beltzville Taps. Such notice will contain: (a) the date this Letter of Notification was filed with the Commission; (b) a brief description of the Beltzville Taps and their location; (c) locations where the complete Letter of Notification may be reviewed by the public; and (d) an instruction that the interested parties should contact, within 15 days, James J. McNulty, Secretary, at the Commission's Harrisburg address.

42. This Letter of Notification is filed on the date set forth below. As provided in 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(5), the Commission will review and, by order, approve or disapprove this Letter of Notification. If the Commission approves this Letter of Notification, the proposed Beltzville Taps will be constructed as proposed herein without the formal application process set forth at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71, *et seq.*

#### IV. RELATED PROCEEDINGS

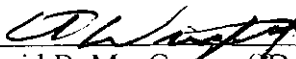
43. Contemporaneously with the filing of this Letter of Notification, PPL Electric is filing with the Commission a Petition for a finding that a building to shelter control equipment at the proposed Beltzville 69-12 kV Substation in Towamensing Township, Carbon County, is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public, and therefore, exempt from any local Zoning Ordinance (“Zoning Petition”). The Beltzville Taps will be connected to and supply the proposed Beltzville Substation, including the control equipment building that is the subject of the Zoning Petition. Issues related to the Zoning Petition are interrelated with this Letter of Notification.

V. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission approve the siting and construction of the Beltzville #1 and #2 138/69 kV Tap Lines in Towamensing Township, Carbon County, Pennsylvania, that is explained above and in the Exhibits and Appendices hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Russell (ID # 21643)  
Associate General Counsel  
PPL Services Corporation  
Office of General Counsel  
Two North Ninth Street  
Allentown, PA 18106  
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Date: January 19, 2010

*Attorneys for PPL Electric Utilities Corporation*

## VERIFICATION

:

I, David G. DeCampli, being the President of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that I expect that PPL Electric Utilities Corporation 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.

  
David G. DeCampli

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Letter of Notification has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

### VIA CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
Commission  
Bureau for Historic Preservation  
Commonwealth Keystone Building, Second  
Floor  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0053  
Attn: Mr. Douglas C. McLearen, Chief

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Attn: The Honorable Allen D. Biehler, P.E.,  
Secretary

Department of Environmental Protection  
P.O. Box 2063  
Market Street State Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063  
Attn: Office of Field Operations

Carbon County Commissioners  
P.O. Box 129  
Jim Thorpe, PA 18229  
Attn: William J. O'Gurek, Chairperson

Carbon County Planning Commission  
76 Susquehanna Street  
P.O. Box 210  
Jim Thorpe, PA 18229  
Attn: Ms. Judy Borger, Director

Towamensing Township Board of  
Supervisors  
120 Stable Road  
Lehigh, PA 18235  
Attn: Mr. Rodney George, Chairperson

Towamensing Township Planning  
Commission  
120 Stable Road  
Lehigh, PA 18235  
Attn: Ms. Connie Bieling, Chairperson

Date: January 19, 2010

  
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