

Before the
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

**SOUTH MECHANICSBURG
SUBSTATION BUILDING PETITION**

Application Docket No. _____

Submitted by: PPL Electric Utilities Corporation

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Petition Of PPL Electric Utilities :
Corporation For A Finding That A :
Building To Shelter Control Equipment At :
The Substation To Be Constructed In : Docket No. P- _____
Upper Allen Township, Cumberland :
County, Pennsylvania Is Reasonably :
Necessary For The Convenience Or :
Welfare Of The Public :

PETITION OF PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (“PPL Electric” or the “Company”) hereby petitions the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.41 and 53 P.S. § 10619 for a finding that a building to shelter control equipment at the proposed substation in Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County (“Control Equipment Building”) is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public, and therefore, exempt from any local Zoning Ordinance.¹ In support of this Petition, PPL Electric states as follows:

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Petitioner in this proceeding is PPL Electric Utilities Corporation. Its principal place of business is located at:

Two North Ninth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

¹ PPL Electric believes its control equipment building is not a “building” but, rather, is part of its substation facilities. Therefore, PPL Electric’s control equipment building is exempt from local zoning requirements. *See, e.g., Duquesne Light Co. v. Upper St. Clair Township*, 377 Pa. 323, 334-35, 105 A.2d 287, 292 (1954). This Zoning Petition is being filed as a precaution in the event that the Commission were to determine that the control equipment building is not a facility and, therefore, potentially subject to local zoning ordinances.

2. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of PPL Electric's attorneys are:

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PPL Electric's attorneys are authorized to receive all notices and communications regarding this Petition.

3. PPL Electric is a public utility as that term is defined in Section 102 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 102, and is an electric distribution company as that term is defined in Section 2803 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 2803.

4. PPL Electric is a Pennsylvania corporation which supplies electric distribution and provider of last resort electric supply services pursuant to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Commission to approximately 1.4 million customers in a service territory covering

approximately 10,000 square miles in all or portions of 29 counties in eastern and central Pennsylvania.

II. DISCUSSION

5. PPL Electric's certificated service territory includes a portion of central northeast Cumberland County which is part of PPL Electric's Harrisburg Region. The proposed South Mechanicsburg 69-12 kV Substation Project is located in an area of the Harrisburg Region which PPL Electric serves customers in the Borough of Mechanicsburg and Upper Allen Township. Electric supply to the area is currently from PPL Electric's Mount Allen and Mechanicsburg Substations via 12 kV distribution circuits.

6. A third supply source for this area is required at this time to resolve the following problems:

- Projected overload of the Mechanicsburg 05-6 12 kV line by 2013. The normal planning guideline for this type of line is 10 MVA. By 2013, the load on this line is expected to reach 10.8 MVA. Overloading the Mechanicsburg 05-6 12 kV line could result in conductor damage or failure which would interrupt service to approximately 1,400 customers until repairs are made.
- The Mechanicsburg 05-4, 05-6 and the Mount Allen 73-1 12 kV lines exceed PPL Electric's Reliability Principles and Practices (RP&P) guidelines for customer count per feeder. The RP&P guideline is that no more than 1,300 customers should be served from a 12 kV circuit. Presently these three circuits serve approximately 1,400, 1,400, and 1,600 customers respectively. This project will reduce the customer count per feeder.

- Projected overload of the transformer at the Mount Allen 69-12 kV Substation by 2011. The normal planning guideline for this substation is 36 MVA. By 2011, the load on this substation is expected to reach 36 MVA. Overloading the Mount Allen 69-12 kV Substation could result in transformer damage or failure which would leave approximately 650 customers out of service until repairs are made.

7. In order to alleviate these problems, the Company plans to construct the new South Mechanicsburg 69–12 kV Substation and the South Mechanicsburg 69 kV Tap Line in the southern portion of PPL Electric’s Harrisburg Region. The substation will be served from PPL Electric’s existing 69 kV transmission network. The Company plans to install two new 12 kV distribution lines supplied from the new South Mechanicsburg 69-12 kV Substation to serve customer load in this area. The new distribution circuits will tie to the Mount Allen 73-1 and Mechanicsburg 05-4 distribution lines. The new 12 kV lines will alleviate the projected overload of the Mechanicsburg 05-6 12 kV line and resolve existing RP&P guideline violations related to customer count per feeder. Additionally, the new substation will resolve the projected overload at the transformer at the Mount Allen 69-12 kV Substation.

8. The new substation will include a building. Substations must include certain control equipment, primarily switches, relay and control equipment, and SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) to control the flow of electricity into, within and from the substation. Much of this equipment, in order to function properly, must be protected from the elements. The purpose of the proposed building in the substation is to protect the control equipment from the elements so that the equipment, and the entire substation, can function properly.

9. The building will be approximately 12 feet by 12 feet. It will be constructed on a concrete slab. The exterior walls will be constructed of corrugated aluminum. There will be minimal space heating and cooling equipment for the building. Such equipment will be installed for the purpose of keeping the temperature inside the building within limits tolerated by the control equipment. The building will not be intended for occupancy. There will be no supply of water and no sanitary facilities.

10. The substation will be surrounded by a high fence to prevent entry by unauthorized persons. Access to the substation, including the Control Equipment Building, must be limited because the high voltage at which the substation will operate presents potential dangers to untrained persons. The Control Equipment Building will be contained within the fenced perimeter of the substation.

11. The substation will be located on an approximately 2.33-acre tract of land that PPL Electric will own in fee. The current property owner and PPL Electric have an agreement in principle which will give PPL Electric the right to purchase the tract of land. The fenced in area of the substation will be 136 feet by 104 feet.

12. The location of the substation is advantageous because the source 69 kV transmission line is located approximately 180 feet from the tract of land which PPL Electric will own. Consequently, a short transmission tap line is required to connect the proposed substation to the electric grid. Additionally, only one property is traversed by the proposed tap line. PPL Electric requires new right-of-way from the property owner in order to construct the proposed tap line. The owner of the property is the same person who owns the tract of land on which the substation will be constructed. PPL Electric and the property owner have reached an agreement

in principle under which PPL Electric will have the right to purchase a right-of-way and easement for the proposed transmission line.

13. By siting the substation within close proximity to the existing transmission source for the tap, PPL Electric can minimize the length of the transmission line supplying the substation, thereby minimizing costs and environmental impacts.

14. Provided as Attachment A hereto is a map showing the location of PPL Electric's tract of land, the substation, the Control Equipment Building, the right-of-way and easement for the South Mechanicsburg Tap.

15. Section 619 of the Municipalities Planning Code, 53 P.S. § 10619, provides that:

“This article shall not apply to any existing or proposed building, or extension there of, used or to be used by a public utility corporation, if, upon petition of the corporation, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission shall, after public hearing, decide that the present or proposed situation of the building in question is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public.”

16. The Control Equipment Building is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public because it is a necessary component of PPL Electric's plan to improve the reliability and reinforce the distribution system to meet the growing demand for electricity in central eastern Cumberland County. This project is necessary to assure continued reliable service to approximately 4,400 customers in the area.

A. LOCAL LAND USE CONSIDERATIONS

17. Under 52 Pa. Code § 69.1101, the Commission considers the impact of certain decisions upon local comprehensive plans and Zoning Ordinances. These decisions include those regarding petitions filed under Section 619 of the Municipalities Planning Code, 53 P.S. § 10619.

18. PPL Electric's proposed Control Equipment Building will be located in a portion of Upper Allen Township designated as an Industrial District under its Zoning Ordinance. Pursuant to Section 245-214 of Upper Allen Township's Zoning Ordinance, Public Utility buildings and structures may be established as a conditional use in all districts upon the approval of the Board of Commissioners. See Section 245-248 of the Upper Allen Township Zoning Ordinance for definitions.²

19. The Upper Allen Township Zoning Ordinance does, however, require permits for all buildings. If this provision were applied to the proposed control equipment building, the process for acquiring a building permit, including any appeals that become necessary may delay completion of the project which could compromise the reliability of service to customers

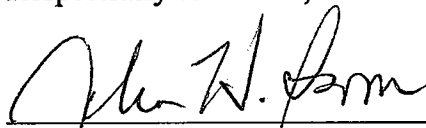
20. PPL Electric has informed Upper Allen Township that it intends to implement this project as shown on the certificate of service. PPL Electric is serving a copy of this Petition on Upper Allen Township. In addition, PPL Electric is serving a copy of this Petition on the Upper Allen Township Planning Commission, Cumberland County and the Cumberland County Planning Commission.

² Upper Allen Township's Zoning Ordinance is not attached to this Petition due to its length. It is available, however, at the home page for Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania under "Codified Ordinance."

III. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission find that the Control Equipment Building proposed by PPL Electric Utilities Corporation is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 30, 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

