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File #: 2507/140066

September 21, 2010

Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RECEIVED
2010 SEP 21 PM 3:30
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 Blue Mountain #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission Tap Lines in Moore Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania
Docket No. A-2010-**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

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. Also enclosed is a CD containing copies of the exhibits and appendices, as well as a check in the amount of \$350 for the filing fee.

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 the involved governmental agencies and municipalities. If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at the address or telephone number provided above.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher T. Wright

CTW/skr
Enclosures

**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-2010-_____
Respect To The Blue Mountain #1 & #2 :
138 kV Transmission Tap Lines in Moore :
Township, Northampton County, :
Pennsylvania :

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

RECEIVED
2010 SEP 21 PM 3:30
SECRETARY'S BUREAU
PA PUC

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 Blue Mountain #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission Tap Lines (“Blue Mountain Taps”), which will consist of approximately 150 feet of new 138 kV transmission line and will connect the existing Siegfried–Jackson #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission Line to the proposed Blue Mountain 138-12 kV Substation (“Blue Mountain Substation”) to be constructed in Moore Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. In support thereof, PPL Electric states as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

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

2. PPL Electric's address is Two North Ninth Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101.

3. PPL Electric's attorneys are:

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

4. 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.

5. PPL Electric owns approximately 5,000 miles of transmission lines operating at 69 kV (kilovolts) or higher, approximately 330 substations with a capacity of 10 MVA (megavolt amperes) or more, and approximately 43,000 miles of distribution lines operating at less than 69 kV.

6. This Letter of Notification includes the following accompanying attachments:

- Attachment 1 Necessity Statement.
- Attachment 2 Engineering Description.
- Attachment 3 Environmental Assessment.
- Attachment 4 PPL Electric Design Criteria and Safety Practices.
- Attachment 5 PPL Electric Field Management Program.
- Attachment 6 List of Involved Governmental Agencies, Municipalities, and Other Public Entities.

7. PPL Electric proposes to initially install one new 12 kV distribution line that will be connected to the new Blue Mountain Substation to relieve loading and increase reliability and operating flexibility in the Moore Township area. To accomplish this reinforcement, PPL Electric proposes to construct the Blue Mountain Taps, which will extend approximately 150 feet in length and connect the existing Siegfried–Jackson #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission Line to the proposed Blue Mountain Substation in Moore Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The Blue Mountain Taps, together with the new 12 kV distribution line and the Blue Mountain Substation, is required to improve reliability of service and meet increasing demand in the Moore Township area.

8. Due to the small size of the transmission lines necessary and the presence of other transmission facilities in the area, it is anticipated that the proposed Blue Mountain Taps will have minimal incremental impacts on the area.

9. The proposed Blue Mountain Taps will be constructed entirely on the site for the proposed Blue Mountain Substation, which is owned in fee by PPL Electric.

10. The estimated cost for the Blue Mountain Taps is approximately \$489,000. Construction is scheduled to commence March, 2011 to meet a required in-service date of November, 2011.

11. The proposed Blue Mountain Taps will be located entirely in Moore Township, Northampton County. The Blue Mountain Taps were reviewed with representatives of the Township, County and their planning commissions and none of them have any objection to the Blue Mountain Taps.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY

12. Both the Blue Mountain Substation and Blue Mountain Taps will be located entirely on land owned in fee by PPL Electric. An aerial plot plan is provided at the end of Attachment 2 to this Letter of Notification. The plot plan depicts the location of the existing and proposed facilities.

13. The proposed Blue Mountain Taps will be approximately 150 feet in length. The Taps will connect the existing Siegfried-Jackson #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission Line with the proposed Blue Mountain Substation. The purpose of the Blue Mountain Taps, together with the proposed Blue Mountain Substation and associated 12 kV distribution line, is to provide an additional source of supply to distribution customers located in the Moore Township area.

14. The Blue Mountain Taps and Blue Mountain Substation are needed because the present distribution facilities that supply PPL Electric's distribution customers in that area are projected to exceed the normal planning guidelines for line loading in the winter of 2010-2011 based on PPL Electric's Reliability Principles and Practices Manual ("RP&P"). The Blue Mountain Taps and Blue Mountain Substation will relieve thermal overloading, reduce the number of customers served from the existing distribution line, reduce the overall length of the existing distribution line and its branches, and resolve reliability issues associated with the existing distribution line serving that area.

15. Presently, PPL Electric's distribution customers in this area are served from the Northampton 138-12 kV Substation. The Northampton 138-12 kV Substation has two 138-12 kV transformers energized from the Allentown-Siegfried #1 and #2 138 kV Transmission Line. The Northampton 138-12 kV Substation supplies four 12 kV distribution lines, including the Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line.

16. Approximately 2,000 customers are served by the Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line. The Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line is projected to exceed the normal planning guidelines in PPL Electric's RP&P in the winter of 2010-2011. The normal ratings of the 336 kcmil (thousands of circular mils)¹ aluminum conductors, such as the Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line, is 10 MVA. The projected peak load on the distribution line forecasted for the winter of 2010-2011 is 10.1 MVA. Overloading the Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line could result in conductor damage or failure.

17. The Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line currently exceeds PPL Electric's RP&P guidelines for the number of customers per feeder. The RP&P provides that no more than

¹ A circular mil is the cross-sectional area of a wire one mil in diameter, where 1 kcmil = 0.5067 mm².

1,300 customers should be served from a 12 kV circuit. However, the Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line presently serves approximately 2,000 customers. As a result of the overloading, the existing distribution line cannot accommodate any additional load growth.

18. The overall length of the Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line and its 12 kV branches is approximately 96 miles. This length exceeds the PPL RP&P guideline of 50 miles of line length per feeder. The Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line has limited transfer capability because it is tied to only one other circuit. However, this other circuit presently serves approximately 1,300 customers and cannot accommodate any additional customer load under the PPL RP&P. This limited transfer capability can increase the duration of outages. As a result of the large number of customers experiencing multiple outages per year, the Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line has repeatedly been among the worst performing circuits on the PPL Electric system.

19. To alleviate these problems, PPL Electric plans to construct the new Blue Mountain Substation. PPL Electric plans to construct and install a new 12 kV distribution line that will be connected to the Blue Mountain Substation to serve customer load in the Moore Township area to relieve loading and increase reliability and operating flexibility. The Blue Mountain Substation and new 12 kV distribution line will reduce peak loading on the existing Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line by approximately 5.2 MVA. The new 12 kV facilities will reduce the number of customers served by the existing Northampton 31-2 12 kV distribution line to within the limits of the PPL Electric RP&P guidelines.

20. The Blue Mountain Substation will be supplied from the existing Siegfried-Jackson #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission Line. The Blue Mountain Taps proposed herein will connect the Blue Mountain Substation with the Siegfried-Jackson #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission

Line. The Blue Mountain Taps will be designed as a double-circuit 138 kV transmission tap lines that will extend approximately 150 feet from the existing Siegfried-Jackson #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission Line to the proposed Blue Mountain Substation. Initially, only the Blue Mountain Tap #1 will be constructed. The Blue Mountain Tap #2 will be constructed when future load increases make it appropriate to maintain service reliability. The proposed Blue Mountain Taps are depicted in the aerial plot plan provided at the end of Attachment 2 to this Letter of Notification.

21. The Blue Mountain Taps initially will require one steel mono-pole, which will be approximately 110 feet in height and will be mounted on a concrete foundation. A second, shorter steel mono-pole will be added when the second Tap is installed.²

22. The proposed Taps will each consist of three power conductors and one overhead ground wire. The power conductors will be 556.5 kcmil, 24/7 strand ACSR.³ The overhead ground wires will be 3/8-inch steel and will provide lightning protection for the proposed Taps.

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

24. The total estimated cost to design and construct the proposed project is approximately \$2.1 million, which includes \$1.3 million for the new Blue Mountain Substation, \$489,000 for the Blue Mountain Taps, and \$300,000 for distribution work.

25. Construction is scheduled to commence in March 2011 to meet a required in-service date of November 2011.

² The future Blue Mountain Tap #2 will tap the far side of the existing Siegfried-Jackson #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission Line. The second pole is shorter so that the conductors of the Blue Mountain Tap #2 will be low enough to pass underneath the conductors of the Siegfried-Jackson #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission Line.

³ Aluminum conductor steel reinforced.

26. The proposed Blue Mountain Taps and Blue Mountain Substation will be located in Moore Township, Northampton County. The Blue Mountain Taps and Blue Mountain Substation will be constructed entirely on a 7.93-acre parcel owned in fee by PPL Electric.

27. Because the proposed Blue Mountain Taps will be only 150 feet in length and will be installed in the vicinity of existing transmission lines as depicted in the aerial plot plan at the end of Attachment 2 to this Letter of Notification, it is anticipated that the Blue Mountain Taps will have minimal incremental impacts on the area. The 7.93-acre site for the proposed Blue Mountain Substation is traversed by the existing Siegfried-Jackson #1 & #2 138 kV Transmission Line. The site is zoned as a Limited Conservation District, under which substations are listed as a "Special Exception Use." A proposed subdivision is located across from the site for the proposed Blue Mountain Substation. Two existing homes are located nearby, with the closest being approximately 500 feet from the proposed substation. Visual impacts to the existing and future homes will be mitigated by landscaping the site after the project is completed.

28. Accompanying this Letter of Notification is a *separately bound volume* containing Attachments 1-6, which provide additional information about the Blue Mountain Taps. This Letter of Notification and accompanying Attachments, which are incorporated herein by reference, contain all the information required by 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(4).

III. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

29. 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 Blue Mountain Taps qualify for use of a Letter of Notification because the tap lines will be less than two miles in length.

30. The Necessity Statement for the Blue Mountain Taps is provided as Attachment 1 accompanying this Letter of Notification. As explained in greater detail therein, the purpose of the Blue Mountain Taps is to improve the reliability of service and to reduce load on the existing distribution facilities in the vicinity of Moore Township, Northampton County.

31. In determining the need for the Blue Mountain Taps, PPL Electric considered one alternative electrical solution or functional configuration. As an alternative functional configuration to the Blue Mountain Taps and Blue Mountain Substation, PPL Electric considered building a new radial distribution line from the Little Gap 69-12 kV Substation. This alternative would require approximately 3.7 miles of new distribution line, which would have to be built over the Blue Mountain and cross the Appalachian Trail. This functional configuration would require upgrades to the Little Gap 69-12 kV Substation to accommodate the additional line and terminal. However, the construction of a new radial line over the heavily wooded Blue Mountain would not be a long term solution to the existing reliability problem in this area. Further, these facilities would only be temporary because projected load growth in the area in the future would require the installation of a new substation to meet the projected increase in demand. As a result, PPL Electric rejected this alternative functional configuration because the proposed Blue Mountain Taps and Blue Mountain Substation provide additional reliability and operating flexibility, allow for a better long-term plan for the entire area, and avoid the investment in facilities that would be useful only temporarily.

32. The proposed Blue Mountain Taps will not create any unreasonable risk of danger to the public health or safety. The Blue Mountain 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 Attachment 4 hereto.

33. The Engineering Description of the Blue Mountain Taps is provided in Attachment 2 accompanying this Letter of Notification.

34. The proposed Blue Mountain Taps will be located entirely on the site for the Blue Mountain Substation, which is owned in fee by PPL Electric. As a result, no additional rights-of-way are necessary for the proposed Blue Mountain Taps.

35. No communication towers, pipelines, or other utilities will be affected by the proposed Blue Mountain Taps. The nearest airport is approximately 6.97 miles southeast of the Blue Mountain Substation site. PPL Electric will contact the PennDOT Bureau of Aviation and the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure that the proposed Blue Mountain Taps will not be a hazard to flight operations.

36. The proposed Blue Mountain Taps were reviewed with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The PHMC has determined that, due to the absence of historical sites and the small project size, no further archaeological investigations are required.

37. The proposed Blue Mountain Taps will not affect any unique geological, scenic, or natural areas. No national natural landmarks, parks, or recreational facilities are located near the project area. The Devils Potato Patch, an Outstanding Geological Feature of Pennsylvania, is located approximately 3.12 miles from the project area. However, no impact to this feature is anticipated due to its distance from the project area and the small size of the project.

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

39. No tree clearing is required for the proposed Blue Mountain Taps. However, to the extent that any tree clearing becomes necessary, PPL Electric will apply its “Specifications for Initial Clearing and Control of Vegetation on or Adjacent to Electric Right-of-Way Through Use of Herbicides, Mechanical, and Hand Clearing Techniques” to mitigate any impacts.

40. PPL Electric has consulted with state and federal agencies to obtain information regarding endangered and threatened species in close proximity to the Blue Mountain Taps. Both the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission noted the potential presence of bog turtles (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) in wetlands near the project location. As a result, PPL Electric retained the services of Richard Mellon, Mellon Biological Service to investigate. Mr. Mellon reported that no wetlands were found in close proximity to the project and therefore, there will be no impact on bog turtles. Mr. Mellon’s report and findings were forwarded to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. PPL Electric will clear the conflict prior to the start of construction.

41. The Blue Mountain Taps were reviewed with representatives of Northampton County, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Moore Township Board of Supervisors, and Moore Township Planning Commission. These entities have no objection to the Blue Mountain Taps.

42. Attachment 6 accompanying this Letter of Notification contains a list of the involved governmental agencies, municipalities, and other public entities. Copies of this Letter

of Notification are being served on the agencies listed in Attachment 6 in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(3).

43. Attachment 5 accompanying this Letter of Notification explains PPL Electric's standards for Magnetic and Field Management.

44. 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 Blue Mountain Taps. Such notice will contain: (a) the date this Letter of Notification was filed with the Commission; (b) a brief description of the Blue Mountain 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, Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary, at the Commission's Harrisburg address.

45. 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 Blue Mountain Taps will be constructed as proposed herein without the formal application process set forth at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71, *et seq.*

IV. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission approve the siting and construction of the Blue Mountain #1 and #2 138 kV Tap Lines in Moore Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, that is explained above and in the Attachments hereto.

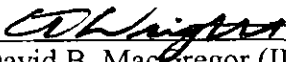
Respectfully submitted,

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Of Counsel:

Post & Schell, P.C.

Date: 9/21/2010


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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.

Date: 9/15/10


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. McLearn, Chief

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 8th 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


Northampton County
Northampton County Government Center
669 Washington Street
Easton, PA 18042
Attn: Mr. John Stoffa, County Executive

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 301
Allentown, PA 18109
Attn: Mr. Michael Kaiser, AICP, Executive
Director

Moore Township Board of Supervisors
2491 Community Drive
Bath, PA 18014
Attn: Mr. Maynard Campbell, Chair

Moore Township Planning Commission
2491 Community Drive
Bath, PA 18014
Attn: Mr. Jason Harhart, Planning Director
and Zoning Officer

Date: 9/21/2010



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