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File #: 140066

March 14, 2012

BY HAND

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

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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 Blooming Grove - Hemlock #1 & #2 138/69 kV Transmission Line Rebuild in Blooming Grove Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania - Docket No. A-2012-**

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 attachments which are contained in a separately-bound volume in the above-referenced proceeding. Also enclosed is a CD containing copies of the Letter of Notification and attachments.

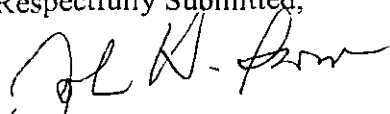
As indicated on the certificate of service, copies of the Letter of Notification and accompanying exhibits and appendices are being served by certified mail, return receipt requested upon the property owners and the involved governmental agencies and municipalities.

Construction is scheduled to commence as soon as practical following approval by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to meet a required in-service date of November 2013.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at the address or telephone numbers provided above.

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
March 14, 2012  
Page 2

Respectfully Submitted,



John H. Isom

JHI/jl

Enclosures

cc: Certificate of Service  
Robert F. Young  
Paul T. Diskin  
Nicholas Okoro  
Kimberly Hafner

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SECRETARY'S BUREAU

**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-2012-\_\_\_\_\_  
Respect To The Blooming Grove – :  
Hemlock #1 & #2 138/69 kV Transmission :  
Line Rebuild in Blooming Grove :  
Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania :

PA PUC  
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” or the “Company”), 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 rebuild in place of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock #1 & #2 138/69 kV Transmission Line (“Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line”) to address reliability concerns in Blooming Grove Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania. The Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line is approximately 9.9 miles in length and connects the Blooming Grove 230-69 kV and Hemlock Farms 69-12 kV Substations. Subject to the Commission’s approval, the Project has a construction start date of October 2012 in order to meet a required in service date of November 2013. PPL Electric has met with representatives of Blooming Grove Township and Pike County, and neither had any objection to the Project. In support this Letter of Notification, PPL Electric states as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

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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Fax: 610.774.6726  
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PPL Electric's attorneys are authorized to receive all notices and communications regarding this Letter of Notification.

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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 those terms are defined respectively 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<sup>1</sup> or higher, approximately 375 substations with a capacity of 10 MVA<sup>2</sup> or more, and approximately 43,000 miles of distribution lines operating at less than 69 kV.

6. Accompanying this Letter of Notification is a separately bound volume containing Attachments 1-7, which provide additional information about the proposed construction of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line:

- 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 Owners of Property within the Right-of-Way
- Attachment 7: List of Involved Governmental Agencies, Municipalities, and Other Public Entities.

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<sup>1</sup> Kilovolts.

<sup>2</sup> Megavolt Amperes.

7. 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).

## **II. THE PROJECT**

8. The proposed Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line will be located in Blooming Grove Township, Pike County. This Project involves a rebuild of an existing single circuit 69 kV transmission line to a double circuit 138/69 kV transmission line between the existing Bloomington Grove 230-69 kV Substation and the existing Hemlock Farms 69-12 kV Substation. The new Line will be designed and constructed as a double circuit line for future 138 kV operation, but it will initially be operated at 69 kV until load growth in the area makes it appropriate to increase the operating voltage.

9. The Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line will be rebuilt entirely within the right-of-way for the existing line.

10. The Project will reduce the electric load on the existing Blooming Grove – Hemlock 69 kV circuit. The load reduction will be accomplished by transferring load from Transformer #2 at the Hemlock Farms Substation to a new circuit. The load reduction is needed during peak winter conditions. The Project will also provide operating flexibility and improved reliability for customers in Blooming Grove Township, Pike County.

11. The Project is also required to prevent interruptions of load of a magnitude that would exceed PPL Electric's Reliability Principles and Practices ("RP&P") guidelines, if the existing Blooming Grove – Hemlock 69 kV Line were unexpectedly removed from service by an unplanned outage.

12. The total estimated cost of the proposed Project is \$15,300,000. Of this total, \$14,141,530 is for transmission line work. The remainder is for work at the two substations to

accommodate the new transmission circuit. Subject to the Commission's approval, construction is scheduled to begin in October 2012, to support the Project's required in-service date of November 2013.

13. PPL Electric has explained the Project to representatives of Blooming Grove Township and Pike County, and neither the Township nor the County had any objection to the Project.

### **III. NECESSITY**

14. The Necessity Statement for the proposed construction of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line is provided as Attachment 1 accompanying this Letter of Notification. As explained therein, this Project is necessary to comply with the reliability requirements for PPL Electric's 69 kV transmission system, as found in PPL Electric's RP&P.

15. PPL Electric plans its system in accordance with the guidelines found in the RP&P so that PPL Electric can sustain probable contingencies and disturbances with only minimal customer service interruptions and so that it can adequately serve each customer's needs with regard to capacity, voltage and reliability for all load levels throughout the daily load cycle. System Planning is the process which assures that PPL Electric's regional system can supply electricity to all customer load in a manner that is reliable and economic. In addition, the system is planned so that system reliability can be maintained to prevent large scale, long term, or frequent service interruptions in order to avoid adverse effects and hazards to the public.

16. The planning process begins with the development of a computer model of the future system. A specific study year is chosen. The future system model is then developed using the existing system plus any planned modifications to the transmission system scheduled to be in service prior to the study year. Load levels used in the system model are based on the latest

forecast prepared annually by PPL Electric, which is based on recent summer peak load forecasts that take into account ambient temperatures and humidity indices.

17. Once the system model is complete, comprehensive power flow simulations are performed to determine the ability of the system to comply with the PPL Electric transmission planning reliability criteria. All conditions where the system does not conform to the reliability criteria are identified, and system reinforcements are added to bring the system into conformance. Also identified are estimated costs and lead-times to implement the required reinforcements. Computer simulations of the system with the identified reinforcement alternatives are completed to identify the best overall reinforcement that will meet the needs of the region in a reliable and economic manner.

18. By the winter of 2013-2014, an outage of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock 69 kV Line would interrupt 30.5 MVA of load during peak winter conditions. The RP&P guideline for maximum allowable load loss for a single circuit outage is 30 MVA. The Blooming Grove – Hemlock 69 kV circuit is a radial line with no ties with other circuits. In such an outage, PPL Electric would not be able to transfer load to another source because no alternative source exists.

19. In its current configuration, if an outage were to occur on the Blooming Grove – Hemlock 69 kV Line, approximately 30.5 MW would remain interrupted for an extended period of time until the problem could be located and repaired. An outage of this circuit, as currently configured, would interrupt service to approximately 6,400 customers.

20. In order to resolve the reliability concerns explained above, PPL Electric proposes, subject to the Commissions' approval, to rebuild the existing Blooming Grove – Hemlock 69 kV single circuit Line to a double circuit 138/69 kV Line the entire distance from the Blooming Grove 230-69 kV Substation to the Hemlock Farms 69-12 kV Substation, a

distance or approximately 9.9 miles. In addition, PPL Electric will make changes in the two substations to accommodate the second circuit.

21. The Hemlock Farms 69-12 kV Substation has two transformers. Presently, the single circuit 69 kV Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line serves both transformers. After completion of the Project, Transformer #2 at the Hemlock Farms Substation will be served from the new Blooming Grove – Hemlock #2 138/69 kV circuit. Transformer #1 at the Hemlock Farms will be served from the Blooming Grove – Hemlock #1 circuit. That is, the load will be split between the two circuits.

22. After the Project is completed, if an outage were to occur near Blooming Grove on the Blooming Grove – Hemlock #1 138//69 kV circuit, approximately 18 MW of load would remain interrupted for an extended period of time until the problem could be located and repaired. The magnitude of such an interruption, however, would be within the RP&P guideline for maximum allowable load loss for a single circuit outage.

23. After the Project is completed, if an outage were to occur near Blooming Grove on the Blooming Grove – Hemlock #2 138/69 kV circuit, approximately 12 MW of load would remain interrupted for an extended period of time until the problem could be located and repaired. The magnitude of such an interruption, however, would be within the RP&P guideline for maximum allowable load loss for a single circuit outage.

24. Figure 1 to Attachment 1 of this Letter of Notification details the functional arrangement of the existing transmission facilities in the area.

25. Figure 2 to Attachment 1 of this Letter of Notification details the functional arrangement of the proposed transmission facilities in the area.

26. The total estimated cost to design and construct the proposed Project is \$15,300,000. The estimated cost of the transmission line work is \$14,141,530. The remainder of the cost is for modifications to the two substations to accommodate the second circuit.

27. The proposed Project has a required in service date of October 2013. The in service date is when the Project must be in service in order to avoid overloads which could damage facilities and cause outages of service to customers. In order to meet that date, subject to the Commission's approval, construction is scheduled to begin by October 2012.

#### **IV. ENGINEERING DESCRIPTION**

28. The Engineering Description of the proposed construction of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line is provided in Attachment 2 accompanying this Letter of Notification.

29. Presently, the Blooming Grove – Hemlock 69 kV Line is supported by 251 wooden poles with an average height of 65 feet. The average span is 220 feet. The Project contemplates complete removal of all existing poles, insulators and conductors.

30. The new Blooming Grove – Hemlock #1 and #2 138/69 kV Line will be supported by approximately 92 single-shaft steel pole tangent structures with upswept arms. There will be approximately eight angle structures which may consist of single, two or three-pole structures, depending on the severity of the angle. All poles will be installed on concrete foundations. Some angle structures may be guyed. The average span will be 600 feet.

31. The proposed Line will have six power conductors. They will be 556.5 kcmil,<sup>3</sup> 24/7 strand ACRS.<sup>4</sup> The optical ground wire will be 0.567-inch diameter with 48 single mode fibers.

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<sup>3</sup> A kcmil equals 1,000 circular mils. A circular mil is the cross-sectional area of a wire one mil in diameter, where 1 kcmil = 0.5067mm<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Aluminum conductor, steel reinforced.

32. In total, the Project will require installation of approximately 100 structures which results in a 60 percent reduction in the number of structures.

33. Upon completion of the Project, no property subject to the right-of-way for the transmission line will have more structures on it than are on it presently.

**V. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

34. The proposed construction of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line will not create any unreasonable risk of danger to public health or safety. The proposed Line will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that meets or surpasses all applicable National Electric Safety Code (“NESC”) minimum standards and all applicable legal requirements. Descriptions of NESC standards, PPL Electric’s design criteria, and PPL Electric’s safety practices are explained in Attachment 4.

35. Attachment 5 accompanying this Letter of Notification explains PPL Electric’s standards for Magnetic Field Management. PPL Electric has determined, as a matter of policy, to design its new and rebuilt transmission lines to reduce magnetic fields when that can be done at low or no cost and consistent with functional requirements. PPL Electric’s Magnetic Field Management Program has been developed to implement that policy decision. To reduce magnetic field exposures, the program generally prescribes the use of a line design that provides for five feet higher ground clearance than NESC standards and reverse phasing of new double-circuit lines where it is feasible to do so at low or no cost.

36. Consistent with the program, PPL Electric will construct the new overhead line sections for five feet higher ground clearance than NESC standards and will use reverse phasing in order to reduce magnetic field exposures.

## **VI. RIGHT-OF-WAY STATUS**

37. The construction of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line will take place within existing rights-of-way. PPL Electric does not need any additional right-of-way or other property interest to complete the Project.

## **VII. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION**

38. Because the proposed Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line will be replacing an existing transmission line and because the proposed Line will be supported by fewer structures, it is anticipated that the proposed construction will have minimal incremental impacts on the area.

39. The proposed Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line will follow the same route as the existing Line. The Line generally runs in an easterly direction through the central section of Pike County. The western terminus is the Blooming Grove 230-69 kV Substation; the eastern terminus is the Hemlock Farms 69-12 kV Substation. The first 4.4 miles of the Line parallel the existing Bushkill – Blooming Grove 230 kV Transmission Line. Approximately 2.1 miles of the line will extend through the Delaware State Forest in existing right-of-way. The entire Line is within Blooming Grove Township, Pennsylvania.

40. Forest is the largest land use in the Township. Because the existing right-of-way is maintained according to PPL Electric's Vegetation Management Program, little tree clearing will be required and will be limited to the existing right-of-way, including adjacent areas where PPL Electric has tree clearing rights, and access roads.

41. Other land uses near the right-of-way consist of low and medium density residential and commercial uses. The largest residential area is the Hemlock Farms subdivision located directly south and east of the Hemlock Farms Substation. This subdivision includes about 3,500 lots.

42. There are no heavily developed areas near the Line. Most commercial businesses are located along Route 739 on either side of I-84, which is located just north or east of the Line Route.

43. The closest airport is the Flying Dollar Airport, located 9 miles southwest of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock right-of-way. Due to the distance from the proposed Project, the presence of taller transmission equipment in the area, and the proposed height of the structures, PPL Electric does not believe that the proposed structures will be a hazard to the airport’s flight operations. Nonetheless, PPL Electric will contact the PennDOT Bureau of Aviation and the Federal Aviation Administration to confirm that the proposed Line will not be a hazard to flight operations.

44. Land use planning in Blooming Grove Township is guided by the *Pike County Comprehensive Plan ... Growing Naturally* (2006) (“PCCP”) and the *Blooming Grove Comprehensive Plan* (2008) (“BGCP”). Generally, these Plans and related zoning codes seek to preserve forested land and other natural areas and concentrate growth within previously developed areas. Rebuilding the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line in place is consistent with these local efforts because it will not utilize additional forested land and other natural areas.

45. There are presently two agricultural operations in Blooming Grove Township. The Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line does not cross either operation; the rebuild of the Line will have no impact on agricultural operations.

46. There are no recorded National Registry of Historic Places listed or eligible resources within one mile of the Line Route.

47. PPL Electric has consulted with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (“PHMC”) to determine whether the Project would have any effect on historic

buildings, structures and/or archaeological resources in the project area. The PHMC determined that the Project would have no adverse effect on such resources. If, however, any previously unidentified resources are discovered during the Project, PPL Electric will notify the PHMC and take appropriate steps to protect the resources.

48. The Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line crosses six streams; four are named streams, and two are unnamed tributaries of named streams. The Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line crosses approximately 4.9 acres of wetlands. PPL Electric will minimize adverse impacts to streams and wetlands by avoiding placing structures and access roads in wetlands and streams to the extent practical. Where impacts cannot be avoided, PPL Electric will obtain any required permits and adhere to all terms and conditions of such permits.

49. The Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line crosses one area included in the 100-year flood plain. Presently, the Line spans the flood plain, and no new impacts are anticipated as a result of the rebuild because there will be no structures in the flood plain.

50. The Nature Conservancy’s Pike County Natural Areas Inventory identified two sites within 500 feet of the right-of-way. The rebuild of the Line will have no impacts on these areas since the Line is being constructed within the existing right-of-way. Several additional sites are located within two miles of the right-of-way. The Project is not expected to have any impact on these sites.

51. PPL Electric contacted several agencies regarding rare and endangered species. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service reported that no adverse impacts to federally listed species are anticipated. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (“PGC”) stated that no impacts to birds of mammal species are anticipated.

52. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (“PFBC”) expressed concern regarding the timber rattlesnake. PPL Electric will take appropriate steps to protect the timber rattlesnake and its employees either by having a qualified biologist clear the construction area of timber rattlesnakes and erecting a perimeter barrier to prevent the snakes from reentering the area or by conducting construction during periods when the timber rattler is not active.

53. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (“DCNR”) indicated that there is potential for eleven plant species of concern and eight communities of special concern within one mile of the Project. The DCNR has requested surveys in these areas if construction will require tree clearing, right-of-way widening, access road construction or staging areas. PPL Electric will continue to consult with the PFBC and the DCNR to resolve potential impacts to timber rattlesnakes and rare plants in order to receive Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory clearances.

#### **VIII. NOTICE**

54. The proposed construction of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line was reviewed with representatives of Blooming Grove Township and Pike County. The Township and the County had no objection to the Project.

55. Attachment 6 accompanying this Letter of Notification identifies the owners of property within the existing right-of-way. A copy of this Letter of Notification is being served on the property owners listed in Attachment 6 in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(3).

56. Attachment 7 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 7 in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(3).

57. 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 construction of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line. Such notice will contain: (a) the date this Letter of Notification was filed with the Commission; (b) a brief description of the proposed construction Project and its location; and (c) an instruction that interested parties should contact Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta, at the Commission’s Harrisburg address.

**IX. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION**

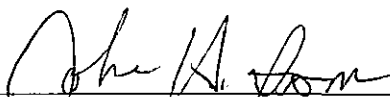
58. PPL Electric is proceeding by means of a Letter of Notification, instead of a full Application, pursuant to the Commission’s regulations at 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d). The proposed construction of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line qualifies for use of a Letter of Notification because the Project is a reconstruction of an existing transmission line whose size, character design or configuration will not substantially alter the right-of-way. There will be no substantial alteration of the right-of-way because, although the structures will be taller, there will be fewer structures in the rebuilt line. Further, no property will have more structures on it than occupy it presently. In addition, the new line will be located entirely within an existing transmission line right-of-way.

59. 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 construction of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line will be completed as proposed herein without the formal application process set forth at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71, *et seq.*

**X. CONCLUSION**

WHEREFORE, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission approve the proposed construction of the Blooming Grove – Hemlock Line in Blooming Grove Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania, that is explained above and in the Attachments hereto.

Respectfully submitted,



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Of Counsel:

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Date: March 14, 2012

Attorneys for PPL Electric Utilities Corporation

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**VERIFICATION**

I, Gregory N. Dudkin, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

*3/6/12*

*G. N. Dudkin*

**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 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Irwin A. Popowsky, Esquire  
Consumer Advocate  
Office of Consumer Advocate  
555 Walnut Street  
Forum Place, 5th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

Johnnie E. Simms, Esquire  
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor West  
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Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Steven C. Gray, Esquire  
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Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Bureau for Historic Preservation  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0053  
Attn: Mr. Douglas C. McLearen, Chief

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
Honorable Barry Schoch, P.E., Secretary  
c/o Office of Chief Counsel  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
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Attn: Andrew Gordon

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

Pike County Board of Commissioners  
506 Broad Street  
Milford, PA 18337  
Attn: Mr. Rich Caridi, Chairman

Pike County Planning Commission  
837 Route 6, Unit 4  
Shohola, PA 18458  
Attn: Ms. Sally Corrigan, Planning Director

Blooming Grove Township  
488 Route 739  
Blooming Grove, PA 18428-9039  
Attn: Ms. Jo-Anna Donahue, Secretary

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Planning Commission  
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Kleinhans Burial Grounds  
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Cole B. III & James Lovell  
& Morgan B. Price Et al  
PO Box 620  
Carlisle, PA 17013

Craig Chapman  
PA Department of Conservation and  
Natural Resources - Bureau of Forestry  
Rachel Carson State Office Building, 6th Floor  
PO Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

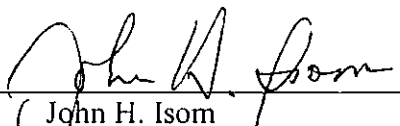
Timothy A. Balch  
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