

ORIGINAL

RE: Docket # A-2013-2352732  
May 3, 2013

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SECRETARY'S BUREAU

To whom it may concern at the Pennsylvania Public Utilities  
Commission:

By filing this letter, we protest PPL's application to PUC to totally reconstruct the St. Johns-Freeland transmission line in 2014 and ask that this line either be abandoned as PPL had initially considered doing OR in the least, be buried underground in the most populated area (near Old Turnpike Road). Atty. Rosemary Chiavetta has kindly guided me in protesting this transmission line's reconstruction. Please excuse me if I have not done this correctly enough. I am a farmer, not a lawyer. I don't expect a lawyer to plant and harvest correctly so bear with me struggling to navigate our due process of law.

#### 57.76 Determination and order.

(1) That there is a need for it.

According to PPL's Letter of Notification to Pennsylvania PUC, "PPL Electric considered the possibility of abandoning the St. Johns - Freeland Tie Line" so even PPL has found that it is not an absolute necessity to the area's service to have this line be reconstructed.

(2) That it will not create an unreasonable risk of danger to the health and safety of the public.

Contrary to what one would perceive from the "St. Johns-Freeland Transmission Reconstruction" report, there are MANY residents presently living along or in very close proximity of this line (within 500 ft). Within only an 1800ft length of this power line, there are 10 homes and one farm(barn and pasture) that are affected. There are people living under these power lines in homes that were once summer homes but are now their primary residences and they have no where else to go. They are not sophisticated enough to voice their opinions, not capable of doing research on the EMF hazards of living under a transmission line nor able to use technology of today to defend their right to continue living safely in their home.

Right now, PPL's tree trimming contractor is aggressively working on this line. We do NOT want PPL to spray our properties now or later and kill every bit of flora and fauna in the easement on our property as they are planning to do! Every one of us in this neighborhood along the line depend on well water and we depend on it being safe to drink! There are so many deer and wildlife that will be affected, not to mention our still very clean portion of Nescopeck Creek! On our farm, we are planning to

put livestock on our pasture soon and this spraying is a serious issue. My neighbors who have had their property sprayed in the past have said NOTHING would grow there for 3 years! Imagine drinking the water from our wells after this herbicide is sprayed from a pumper truck sized sprayer? Risk to our health and safety? Certainly!

The EMF factor is also a factor as there are children living in homes right under the line now. If PPL feels they have to send out an 'EMF expert' to our homes then there is cause for real concern.

(3) That it is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations providing for the protection of the natural resources of this Commonwealth.

We do have historical and environmental features that will be negatively impacted by reconstructing this transmission line.

On our property, we have a +70 year old crossbuck Croft(Scottish-style) barn with beautiful horse pasture within feet of the easement(the easement actually goes through our pasture). This barn is presently listed with the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of preserved Pennsylvania barns and the database repository is at Kutztown University. Traversing Straw Mountain and the length of our southern property boundary, just behind our barn, is a long ancient dry-stack stone trolley bed that was used in the 1800's to carry passengers and freight from Hazleton to Wilkes-Barre. It deserves to be on an historic registry too. These are only a few of the beautiful historic landmarks in our little village of St. Johns/Drums and the powers that be ought to know what they are forfeiting in putting this transmission line through the most beautiful part of this village.

As well, this power line also crosses the cleanest branch of the Little Nescopeck Creek, the headwaters of which are in Nescopeck Park. The Little Nescopeck Creek is classified as a High Quality-Cold Water Fishery (HQ-CWF) stream above the tunnel discharge, as is Nescopeck Creek upstream from its confluence with the Little Nescopeck. Many trout fisherman can be seen RIGHT NOW fishing from this creek -- just a few yards from the transmission line.

(4) That it will have minimum adverse environmental impact, considering the electric power needs of the public, the state of available technology and the available alternatives.

PPL's most recent tree cutting crews(contractured to Pennline) have been cutting UNSupervised and have cut beyond PPL's 50 ft. to midline easement and cut 11 feet into our private property, effectively destroying

some of our property. They also unnecessarily pulled many of our cypress fenceposts out of frozen ground which broke our posts. As well, they cut to the ground many, many mature witch hazels which are sanctioned as appropriate trees to stay under easement. Their heavy hand in cutting has resulted in a swamp between our neighbor and us—water which the small witch hazels would have absorbed if they had not cut them all down! When I called the PPL forester to ask why they did not save the small trees as they promised me, I was met with contempt and told that I was “wasting their time” and “they can do whatever they want”. I had to threaten to call the police to get them to leave and it took over 2 hours to get them to leave and they kept cutting in the meantime. The Pennline supervisor twice told me he would supervise his tree cutters and twice he disappeared and left his crew to cut at their whim and destroy private property too and it was left to me and my handicapped son to try to stop them from cutting beyond the easement. In the easement just below our property, the crews cut only 25ft out from the midline and allowed all small trees to stay whereas on our property and my neighbors, they cut 66 feet from the midline and reduced all the small trees that they promised could stay to a field of woodchips! What they have done seems unnecessarily punitive. We were agreeable to letting them trim trees from the beginning but they have taken this too far.

We also have a very diverse bird population and bat population that frequent our farm in the summer. Local knowledge is that hibernaculum for bats exist in the Jeddo tunnel area and Pardeesville mine shafts -- both are close to us. We have at least one bat's nest in our barn which is 100 ft from the powerline. There are certain bats that are under environmental protection and cutting of trees isn't recommended after March 31 until Oct 15.


As another available alternative, can this transmission line go underground if it has to go through our area? Please see this site and I'd appreciate your thoughts on this: <http://www.undergroundconstructionmagazine.com/underground-electric-transmission-installations-gaining-traction>

Please feel free to call me about anything I've mentioned in this letter. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you again for taking the time to hear us.

Gratefully yours,

Deborah Telatovich and family



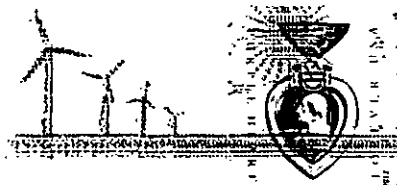
Address, etc. on next page 

168 North Old Turnpike Road Box 112  
St. Johns, PA 18247  
(physical address is Drums, PA 18222 but we are on the border)  
home tel.: 570-579-4309  
cell ph tel.: 646-251-2413  
debbytelatovich@msn.com

D. Telatorica  
Box 112  
St. Johns, PA  
18247

LEHIGH VALLEY PA 180

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Rosemary Chiavetta, Esq.  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA.

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17105326565

