



County of Berks
Planning Commission

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Heidi B. Masano, Asst. County Solicitor

December 11, 2013

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

Paul E. Russell, Associate General Counsel
PPL Services Corporation
Office of General Counsel
Two North Ninth Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Administrative Law Judge David A. Salapa
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Office of Administrative Law Judge
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

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2013 DEC 19 AM 11:57
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SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Re: Docket No. A-2013-2392102

Dear Sir/Madam:

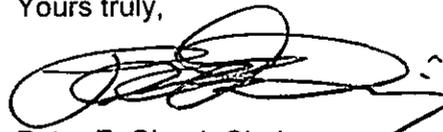
The Berks County Planning Commission has reviewed the Siting Application for PPL Electric's Honey Brook-Twin Valley 138/69 kV Transmission Line which is before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for approval. We are submitting the following comments for PUC/PPL consideration. All comments are relative to the segment of the project located in Berks County.

1. The Planning Commission notes that the Land Use depicted on Figures 3-2 and 4-7 contained in the application's attachments do not accurately reflect the built environment in the vicinity of the Twin Valley Substation. Morgantown Crossings Shopping Center, Pennwood PRD, Mill Stream Residential Development, and recent phases of the Morgantown Business Park and Brittany Estates/Valley Pond (residential) are depicted as Pasture/Hay and Shrub/Scrub land cover. Together these developments comprise nearly

- 450 acres of developed land. It is noted that most of this development can be seen on Aerial Exhibit-Tile 3 of 3 included in the Application's Attachment 4. Figures 3-2 and 4-7, the resulting Land Use Tables and associated text should be updated to reflect the current built environment.
2. The application recognizes that the Morgantown Airport is located about 0.5 mile northwest of the Twin Valley Substation, and states that the proposed line is not expected to interfere with airport operations or violate the height limitation zoning. However, since the majority of the proposed line falls within the Horizontal Surface Zone of the Airport Hazard Zoning associated with the Morgantown Airport, the Planning Commission agrees with PPL Electric's decision to file the appropriate documentation with the Federal Aviation Administration and the PennDOT Bureau of Aviation to ensure the proposed line will not be a hazard to the airport's flight operations.
 3. The entire proposed line in Berks County runs along the headwaters of the Conestoga River (Chesapeake Bay Watershed), and appears to fall within its floodplain. Due to the extensive water quality restoration efforts occurring throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the Planning Commission exhorts proper erosion & sediment control procedures and stormwater management regulations be adhered to.
 4. The proposed line crosses two farms that are eased through the Berks County Agricultural Conservation Easement Program: one easement (114.7 acres) is held by the County; and the other (30.9 acres) is a State/County joint easement. The granting of a right-of-way by the property owner for the installation and use of lines for electric is permitted in the Deed of Agricultural Conservation Easement. However, PPL Electric is urged to locate their facilities with the least amount of interference with farm activity and minimal loss of *productive agricultural land*. Since the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (BCALP) has an interest in these two properties, they should be contacted to discuss any impact to productive agricultural land. Tami Hildebrand is the Executive Director, and can be contacted at the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Office, located at 1238 County Welfare Road, Suite 260, Leesport, PA 19533; 610-378-1844; or thildebrand@countyofberks.com.
 5. PPL Electric is complimented for making improvements that will enhance electric service to a growing area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information please feel free to contact staff planner, Cheryl Auchenbach at 610-478-6300, Extension 6311 or cauchenbach@countyofberks.com.

Yours truly,



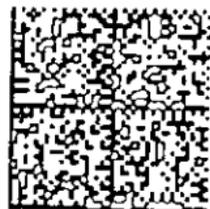
Peter F. Giorgi, Chairman
BERKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

cc: Caernarvon Township
Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation
Berks County Conservation District
Morgantown Airport
David B. MacGregor, Post & Schell, P.C.
John H. Isom, Post & Schell, P.C.
Christopher T. Wright, Post & Schell, P.C.

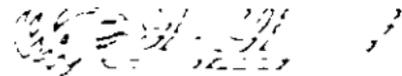
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