

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Letter of Notification of PPL Electric Utilities :  
Corporation, Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code :  
Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for Approval to : Docket No. A-2016-\_\_\_\_\_  
Install Approximately 0.20 Miles of New 230 :  
kV Transmission Lines In Exeter Township, :  
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania :

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**LETTER OF NOTIFICATION**

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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 approval from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) to install approximately 0.20 miles of new 230 kV transmission (the “Project”). As explained below, the new 230 kV transmission lines are necessary to ensure system reliability during the 12-month outage required to rebuild the existing Susquehanna-Jenkins 230 kV Transmission Line. The entire Project is located within the existing rights-of-way. The proposed Project is located in Exeter Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. PPL Electric has provided information regarding this Project to these political subdivisions, which have not objected to the Project.

Subject to the Commission’s approval, construction is scheduled to begin in November 2016 to support the in-service date of March 2017. In support thereof, 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 PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, 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 417 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 Description of the Right-of-Way
- Attachment 4 PPL Electric's Design Criteria and Safety Practices

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**

### **A. NEED FOR THE PROJECT**

8. The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre metropolitan area is primarily supplied by PPL Electric's Lackawanna, Stanton, and Jenkins 230-69 kV Substations, which in turn are supplied by the Susquehanna 500-230-69 kV Substation. Together, the Lackawanna, Stanton, and Jenkins substations serve about 700 MW of load during summer peak conditions. The load in the area is growing at about one percent annually.

9. The major 230 kV lines that supply the load in this area are as follows: Susquehanna-Jenkins 230 kV Transmission Line; Susquehanna-Mountain-Stanton 230 kV Transmission Line; Susquehanna T10-Mountain-Lackawanna 230 kV Transmission Line; Jenkins-Stanton #1 and #2 230 kV Transmission Line; and the Stanton-Lackawanna 230 kV Transmission Line. Each of these lines are described in Attachment 1 to this Letter of Notification.

10. A map and one-line diagram of the existing system are provided in the Necessity Statement included as Attachment 1 to this Letter of Notification.

11. PPL Electric is rebuilding the existing single-circuit Susquehanna-Jenkins 230 kV Transmission Line as a double-circuit 230 kV transmission line to resolve a thermal violation identified by PJM Interconnection, LLC (“PJM”) in the 2013 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (“RTEP”). PJM’s RTEP baseline project number is b2269. The rebuild of the existing Susquehanna-Jenkins 230 kV Transmission line was approved by the Commission on April 7, 2016. *See Letter of Notification of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for Approval to Rebuild Approximately 24.4 Miles of the Existing Susquehanna-Jenkins 230 kV Transmission Line Located in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania*, Docket No. A-2016-2526304 (April 7, 2016).

12. In order to rebuild the existing single-circuit Susquehanna-Jenkins 230 kV Transmission Line as a double-circuit 230 kV transmission line, the Susquehanna-Jenkins 230 kV Transmission Line will have to be taken out of service for an approximately 12-month period during 2017 and 2018.

13. As explained in Attachment 1 to this Letter of Notification, the required outage of the Susquehanna-Jenkins 230 kV Transmission Line will cause the Jenkins 230-69 kV Substation to lose its direct connection to the source of power at Susquehanna Substation. This will put a significant amount of load at risk of being without power for contingencies at the Stanton Substation, and could lead to cascading outages in the area.

14. The need for this Project is further explained in Attachment 1 to this Letter of Notification.

**B. THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

15. To address the reliability issues during the required outage of the Susquehanna-Jenkins 230 kV Transmission Line, as described above, PPL Electric proposes to reconfigure the Susquehanna T-10-Mountain-Lackawanna 230 kV Transmission Line and Susquehanna-Mountain-Stanton 230 kV Transmission Line to provide the Jenkins Substation with a second source of supply during the required outage of the Susquehanna-Jenkins 230 kV Transmission Line.

16. In order to interconnect the Susquehanna-Mountain-Stanton 230 kV Transmission Line with the Jenkins-Stanton #2 230 kV Transmission Line, PPL Electric proposes to construct a new 230 kV single circuit that will extend approximately 500 feet (0.09 miles) between the two existing lines. In order to interconnect the Susquehanna T-10-Mountain-Lackawanna 230 kV Transmission Line with the Jenkins-Stanton #2 230 kV Transmission Line, PPL Electric proposes to construct a new 230 kV single circuit that will extend approximately 540 feet (0.1 miles) between the existing lines. Installation of these two new circuits will require three new monopole structures with an average height of approximately 125 feet.

17. PPL Electric also proposes to install approximately 40 feet (0.01 mile) of new 230 kV conductor (known as a “jumper wire”) near the Stanton Substation to connect the Susquehanna-Mountain-Stanton 230 kV Transmission Line (segment that remains interconnected with the Stanton Substation) and the Susquehanna T-10-Mountain-Lackawanna 230 kV Transmission Line (segment that remains interconnected with the Lackawanna Substation). This jumper wire will be located on one existing pole near the Stanton Substation and will not require new tower structures or other any changes to the right-of-way.

18. In total, the proposed reconfiguration will require the installation of a total of approximately 0.20 miles of new 230 kV transmission lines. Depictions of the type of monopoles used for this Project are provided in Attachment 2 to this Letter of Notification.

19. The 230 kV design will utilize three power conductors per circuit and two overhead ground wires. The power conductors will be 1590 kcmil<sup>1</sup> 45/7 ACSR<sup>2</sup> “Lapwing”<sup>3</sup> conductors. The overhead ground wires will be 48 count single mode fiber optical ground wires. A detailed engineering description is provided in Attachment 2 to this Letter of Notification.

20. A map and one-line diagram of the proposed system are provided in the Necessity Statement included as Attachment 1 to this Letter of Notification.

21. The total estimated cost of the proposed Project is \$2.5 million.<sup>4</sup>

22. Upon Commission approval, the Project has a scheduled construction start date of November 2016 to support the in-service date of March 2017.

### **III. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

23. The proposed Project will not create any unreasonable risk of danger to the public health or safety.

24. The Project will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that meets or surpasses all applicable National Electrical Safety Code (“NESC”) minimum

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<sup>1</sup> The term “kcmil” stands for thousand circular mils. kcmil wire size is the equivalent cross sectional area in thousands of circular mils. A circular mil is the area of a circle with a diameter of one thousandth (0.001) of an inch.

<sup>2</sup> “ACSR” stands for aluminum conductor steel reinforced.

<sup>3</sup> Lapwing is the technical term for a 1590 kcmil 45/7 ACSR conductor as defined in the American Society for Testing and Materials.

<sup>4</sup> The estimated cost for the proposed Project is an order-of-magnitude estimate developed using averages of recent costs for similar projects and without an in-depth analysis of field investigation. The estimated cost is subject to change as the constructability of the Project, sequence of construction, and other factors that may affect cost are identified and analyzed as the Project progresses.

standards and all applicable legal requirements. Descriptions of PPL Electric's design criteria and safety practices are provided in Attachment 4 to this Letter of Notification.

25. As explained in Attachment 2 to this Letter of Notification, PPL Electric's Magnetic Field Management Program has been developed to reduce magnetic fields on new and rebuilt transmission lines when it can be done at low or no cost and consistent with functional requirements. The new 230 kV transmission lines will be single-circuit and, therefore, reverse phasing is not possible. However, the Project will be designed with structures that have a ground clearance that is five feet higher than NESC standards. This measure will reduce the potential for exposure to magnetic fields.

#### **IV. DESCRIPTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY**

26. As explained above, PPL Electric proposes to construct approximately 500 feet of new 230 kV transmission line between the Susquehanna-Mountain-Stanton 230 kV Transmission Line with the Jenkins-Stanton #2 230 kV Transmission Line. Additionally, approximately 540 feet of new 230 kV transmission line will be constructed between the Susquehanna T-10-Mountain-Lackawanna 230 kV Transmission Line with the Jenkins-Stanton #2 230 kV Transmission Line. These two new single-circuit 230 kV transmission lines will parallel each other within an existing 200-foot wide transmission line right-of-way that contains an existing 69 kV transmission line and access road.

27. PPL Electric also proposes to install approximately 40 feet of new 230 kV conductor ("jumper wire") to connect the Susquehanna T-10-Mountain-Lackawanna 230 kV Transmission Line with the Stanton Substation. This new jumper wire will be located on one existing pole near the Stanton Substation and will not require new tower structures or other any changes to the right-of-way. The jumper wire will be constructed entirely within the existing

rights-of-way for the Susquehanna-Mountain-Stanton 230 kV Transmission Line and the Susquehanna T-10-Mountain-Lackawanna 230 kV Transmission Line.

28. The existing rights-of-way are sufficient to accommodate the construction, operation, and maintenance of the new proposed 230 kV transmission lines as explained in Attachment 3 to this Letter of Notification. Therefore, no additional rights-of-way are required for the construction and operation of these new transmission lines.

29. An aerial plot plan is provided in Attachment 3 to this Letter of Notification.

30. Land use impacts are anticipated to be minimal due to the fact that the Project will be constructed entirely within the existing rights-of-way and in close proximity to existing transmission facilities. Where practical, PPL Electric will use previously established access roads for construction to further reduce interference with existing land uses.

31. The Project area previously has been cleared of vegetation. As a result, limited vegetation management will be required for this project. In areas where vegetation management is required to complete the project, PPL Electric will apply its “Specifications for Initial Clearing and Control of Vegetation On or Adjacent to Electric Line Right-of-Way Through Use of Herbicides, Mechanical and Hand Clearing Techniques” to mitigate any impacts.

32. No communication towers, pipelines, or other utilities will be affected by the proposed Project.

33. The closest airports include the Wilkes-Barre Wyoming Valley Airport, a public facility, which is located approximately 4.3-miles southwest of the Project area. PPL Electric does not anticipate any interference with airport operations because of the distance from the Project area, the presence of existing electrical facilities in the Project area, and the similar height of the new facilities and the existing facilities. However, PPL Electric will file all

required documentation with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation.

34. The Project area contains no state lands, national parks, state parks, or local parks.

35. The Project will not traverse or affect any unique geological, scenic, or natural areas.

36. The Project will not affect any recreational areas or natural landmarks.

37. PPL Electric will coordinate with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (“PHMC”) to ensure that the Project will have no adverse impacts to cultural and archaeological resources.

38. The proposed Project will involve crossing a stream. The new transmission lines will span this stream, which will minimize any impacts.

39. The Project is located in an area where wetlands have been noted. PPL Electric will need to conduct a delineation of the wetland area. PPL Electric will obtain all necessary permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (“PADEP”), and will comply with all of the terms and conditions placed on any permits required.

40. PPL Electric will acquire any required soil erosion and sedimentation control permits and will comply with any conditions placed on those permits.

41. PPL Electric will complete a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory records review and coordinate with state and federal agencies to obtain information regarding endangered and threatened species in close proximity to the Project. PPL Electric will obtain all necessary permits from these state and federal agencies, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions placed on any permits required.

**V. NOTICE**

42. PPL Electric has provided information regarding the Project to representatives of Exeter Township, Luzerne County. These entities have not objected to the proposed Project.

43. Copies of this Letter of Notification will be served on the governmental agencies, municipalities, and other public entities agencies in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(3).

44. Copies of this Letter of Notification will be served on the owners of land subject to the right-of-way and easement in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(3).

**VI. LETTER OF NOTIFICATION**

45. 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)(1) (vi).

46. As explained above, PPL Electric herein seeks Commission approval to install approximately 0.20 miles of new 230 kV transmission lines. PPL Electric submits that this proposed Project qualifies for use of a Letter of Notification because the project is less than two miles.

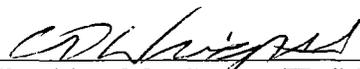
47. This Letter of Notification is filed on the date set forth below. As provided in 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(5), the Commission will review and, by order, approve or disapprove this Letter of Notification. If the Commission approves this Letter of Notification, the proposed Project will be constructed as proposed herein without the formal application process set forth at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71, *et seq.*

**VII. CONCLUSION**

WHEREFORE, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission approve the installation of approximately 0.20 miles of new 230 kV transmission lines in Exeter Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, as explained above and in the Attachments hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 8, 2016

Attorneys for PPL Electric Utilities Corporation

**VERIFICATION**

I, STEPHANIE R. RAYMOND, being the VICE PRESIDENT-TRANSMISSION AND SUBSTATIONS at 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 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: \_\_\_\_\_

6/6/14

Stephanie R. Raymond