**BEFORE THE**

 **PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Application of Pennsylvania Electric Company : A-2016-2565296

Robin F. Miller and Tammy J. Miller : A-2016-2565326

Katherine L. Ziegler : A-2016-2565344

Fritz Land Holdings LP : A-2016-2565360

James B. MacRae, Jr. and Nancy K. MacRae : A-2016-2565364

Michael C. Long : A-2016-2565368

Wilmore Coal Company : A-2016-2565369

Frank J. Shenigo, Trustee of Frank J. Shenigo : A-2016-2565377

Kenneth J. Skone and Karen Jane Skone : A-2016-2565378

Shirley J. Huston and Gary E. Lambert : A-2016-2565472

Martha Lorraine Anderson and John S. Anderson : A-2016-2565480

Dick B. Lohr and Karen G. Lohr : A-2016-2565502

Keith A. Lohr : A-2016-2565504

Robindale Energy Services, Inc. : A-2016-2565509

Scott M. Andrews and Audrey A. Andrews : A-2016-2565543

Albert Stiles : A-2016-2565545

Kathy R. Kelley and Jeffrey Kelley : A-2016-2565547

Berwind Corporation : A-2016-2565549

Vincent Beal : A-2016-2565635

Brian C. Jones and Traci A. Jones : A-2016-2565644

**INTERIM ORDER**

**GRANTING PETITIONS TO WITHDRAW EMINENT DOMAIN APPLICATIONS, EXTENDING DEADLINE TO FILE BRIEFS AND CLOSING THE HEARING RECORD**

On September 1, 2016, Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec or Applicant) filed an application at Docket No. A-2016-2565296 (application or siting application) pursuant to the regulations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC or Commission) at 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Subchapter G. The application seeks siting approval for Penelec to locate, construct, operate and maintain a high-voltage (HV) transmission line referred to as the Bedford North-Central City West 115 kV HV Transmission Line Project (Project). The proposed Project involves constructing a new 115 kV transmission line from the existing Penelec-owned Bedford North substation, located in Bedford Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, to the existing Penelec-owned Central City West substation, located in Central City Borough, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. A portion of the Project proposes to rebuild a section of the existing Penelec-owned Bedford North-New Baltimore 115 kV Transmission Line which is located in Napier, East St. Clair, and Bedford Townships, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. Penelec has requested that the Commission approve the Project as a double-circuit, 115 kV transmission line.

On September 1, 2016, Penelec also filed 19 separate applications to exercise the power of eminent domain (eminent domain applications) to obtain property rights for the construction and operation of the Project. The 19 eminent domain applications were captioned and docketed as set forth in the caption of this order.

On September 1, 2016, Penelec also filed a certificate of service along with its application which indicated that a copy of the application or a notice of filing, as applicable, was served upon the persons and in the manner specified in 52 Pa.Code § 57.74.

 On September 15, 2016, the Commission served on Penelec its notice that an initial prehearing conference was scheduled before the undersigned presiding officer, to be held on December 5, 2016. In addition, on September 15, 2016, a prehearing conference order was entered and served upon the parties as well as the individuals and entities identified on the Parties List attached to the September 15, 2016 prehearing conference order. By prehearing conference order, the parties were notified that the proceeding was assigned to the undersigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ or Presiding Officer) for a prehearing conference on December 5, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

 On September 24, 2016, a notice of the filing of the siting application and of the eminent domain applications was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. The notice specified that formal protests and petitions to intervene in response to the Penelec applications must be filed and served on or before Wednesday, November 23, 2016. The *Pennsylvania Bulletin* notice specified that a prehearing conference was scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2016 at 2nd Floor Hearing Room, Piatt Place, Suite 220, 301 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222.

 A protest was filed on November 23, 2016, by landowner Nancy K. MacRae. Ms. MacRae’s property is also the subject of an eminent domain application of Penelec at Docket No. A-2016-2565364.

The prehearing conference proceeded as scheduled on December 5, 2016. John L. Munsch, Esquire participated at the prehearing conference on behalf of Penelec. Calvin J. Webb II, Esquire appeared on behalf of Kathy R. Kelley and Jeffrey Kelley. Peter J. Carfley, Esquire appeared on behalf of Katherine L. Ziegler, Fritz Land Holdings LP, Shirley Huston and Gary E. Lambert, Martha Lorraine Anderson and John S. Anderson, Keith A. Lohr, and Albert Stiles. Dick B. Lohr and Karen G. Lohr also attended the prehearing conference.

At the prehearing conference on December 5, 2016, Penelec moved to consolidate the siting application proceeding with the 19 eminent domain applications. No objection was made to the request to consolidate these proceedings. An interim order was entered on January 31, 2017 granting Penelec’s motionto consolidate the siting application proceeding filed at Docket No. A-2016-2565296 with the 19 eminent domain applications filed at Docket Nos. A‑2016-2565326, A-2016-2565344, A-2016-2565360, A-2016-2565364, A‑2016-2565368, A‑2016-2565369, A-2016-2565377, A-2016-2565378, A-2016-2565472, A‑2016-2565480, A‑2016-2565502, A-2016-2565504, A-2016-2565509, A-2016-2565543, A‑2016-2565545, A‑2016-2565547, A-2016-2565549, A-2016-2565635, and A-2016-2565644.

 At the prehearing conference, Penelec reported that it resolved four of its eminent domain proceedings. On October 7, 2016, Penelec filed three separate petitions for leave to withdraw and terminate the three above-captioned applications of Penelec to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire an easement and right-of-way, namely the Frank J. Shenigo, Trustee of the Frank J. Shenigo Revocable Living Trust application, the Kenneth J. Skone and Karen Jane Skone application, and the Brian C. Jones and Traci A. Jones application, pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§ 1.82 and 5.94(c), and requested that the undersigned presiding officer approve the petitions of Penelec to withdraw eminent domain proceedings pursuant to Sections 1.82 and 5.94(c) of the Commission’s regulations.

 On November 16, 2016, Penelec filed an additional petition, namely the Michael C. Long petition, pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§ 1.82 and 5.94(c), for leave to withdraw and terminate the Michael C. Long application of Penelec to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire an easement and right-of-way. Penelec requested approval of the petitions of Penelec to withdraw the four eminent domain proceedings referenced above.

 No objections were filed and no objections were raised at the prehearing conference to the four petitions to withdraw eminent domain applications of Penelec filed at Docket Nos.:

* + - A-2016-2565368 (property of Michael C. Long);
		- A-2016-2565377(property of Frank J. Shenigo, Trustee of the Frank J. Shenigo Revocable Living Trust);
		- A-2016-2565378 (property of Kenneth J. Skone and Karen Jane Skone); and
		- A-2016-2565644 (property of Brian C. Jones and Traci A. Jones).

 In its petitions to withdraweminent domain applications, Penelec averred that the subject property owners entered into agreements with Penelec for the grant of rights-of-way and easements over and across their land or an option therefor, thereby rendering the four subject condemnation applications unnecessary. Accordingly, thepetitions to withdraw eminent domain applications of Penelec filed at Docket Nos. A-2016-2565368 (property of Michael C. Long); A‑2016-2565377(property of Frank J. Shenigo, Trustee of the Frank J. Shenigo Revocable Living Trust); A-2016-2565378 (property of Kenneth J. Skone and Karen Jane Skone); and A‑2016-2565644 (property of Brian C. Jones and Traci A. Jones) were granted and the applications filed at those four enumerated Docket Numbers were dismissed by interim order entered on January 31, 2017.

At the prehearing conference the individuals in attendance agreed upon a litigation schedule and that the hearing in this proceeding will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on April 4-5, 2017, with testimony beginning each day at 10:00 a.m.

 The Applicant, Pennsylvania Electric Company, and Nancy K. MacRae, who filed a protest, are parties to this proceeding. No individuals or entities filed a petition to intervene.

 On March 7, 2017 a corrected hearing notice was issued which scheduled the hearing in this matter for April 4-5, 2017 in Pittsburgh, beginning each day at 10:00 a.m.[[1]](#footnote-1)

 On March 7, 2017, a first supplemental prehearing order was entered. In that order the parties were advised that the owners of property subject to eminent domain applications have automatic standing pursuant to 52 Pa.Code § 57.75(i)(3) and are also parties to this proceeding.

 In addition, the March 7, 2017 order provided that any other individuals or entities that failed to file a petition to intervene or a protest would be removed from the Parties List unless they notified the undersigned presiding officer in writing by the close of business on Friday, March 17, 2017, that they wished to remain on the Parties List. Such individuals and entities were advised that if they were removed from the Parties List they would not receive further notices or documents from the Commission in this proceeding.

 On March 13, 2017, Applicant filed three additional petitions for leave to withdraw and terminate the three above-captioned applications of Penelec to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire an easement and right-of-way, namely the Wilmore Coal Company application filed at Docket No. A-2016-2565369; the Scott M. Andrews and Audrey A. Andrews application filed at Docket No. A-2016-2565543; and the Berwind Corporation application filed at Docket No. A-2016-2565549, pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§ 1.82 and 5.94(c), and requested that the undersigned presiding officer approve the petitions of Penelec to withdraw eminent domain proceedings pursuant to Sections 1.82 and 5.94(c) of the Commission’s regulations.

 No objections were filed since the service of those petitions.

 In its petitions to withdraweminent domain applications, Penelec averred that the subject property owners entered into agreements with Penelec for the grant of rights-of-way and easements over and across their land or an option therefor, thereby rendering the four subject condemnation applications unnecessary. Accordingly, an interim order was entered on March 20, 2017 which granted thepetitions to withdraw eminent domain applications of Wilmore Coal Company application filed at Docket No. A-2016-2565369; the Scott M. Andrews and Audrey A. Andrews application filed at Docket No. A-2016-2565543; and the Berwind Corporation application filed at Docket No. A-2016-2565549.

 In addition, as no individuals or entities requested to remain on the Parties List pursuant to the order entered on March 7, 2017, the interim order entered on March 20, 2017 provided that all individuals who did not file a protest or petition to intervene, who are not owners of property subject to eminent domain applications as referenced in the caption of this proceeding, or who are not attorneys who have entered their appearance in this proceeding, were removed from the Parties List and would not receive further notices or documents from the Commission in this proceeding.

 On March 16, 2017, Applicant filed Amendments to Applications for Siting Approval and for Authorization to Exercise Power of Eminent Domain Substituting Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC, Successor in Interest to Pennsylvania Electric Company, as Applicant, Pursuant to the Final Order entered August 24, 2016 at Docket Nos. A-2015-2488903, *et al*.

 On March 21, 2017, a Joint Motion for Continuance of Hearing was filed by Martha Lorraine Anderson and John S. Anderson, Keith A. Lohr, Shirley Huston and Gary E. Lambert, Albert Stiles, Kathy R. Kelley and Jeffrey Kelley, and Fritz Land Holdings LP. The hearing had been scheduled in this matter for April 4-5, 2017. An interim order was issued on March 23, 2017, directing Applicant to file a response to the Joint Motion for Continuance of Hearing no later than 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2017. Applicant filed its response in opposition to the joint motion for continuance on March 23, 2017.

 An interim order was entered on March 27, 2017 that converted the hearing scheduled for April 4, 2017 to a telephonic prehearing conference beginning at 10:00 a.m. and cancelling the hearing scheduled for April 5, 2017.

 The prehearing conference proceeded as scheduled on April 4, 2017. John L. Munsch, Esquire participated at the prehearing conference on behalf of the Applicant. Calvin J. Webb II, Esquire appeared on behalf of Kathy R. Kelley and Jeffrey Kelley. Peter J. Carfley, Esquire appeared on behalf of Katherine L. Ziegler, Fritz Land Holdings LP, Shirley Huston and Gary E. Lambert, Martha Lorraine Anderson and John S. Anderson, Keith A. Lohr, and Albert Stiles. Nancy MacRae and Robin Miller also attended the prehearing conference. At the prehearing conference, the parties agreed to revisions to the litigation schedule in this proceeding.

 An interim order was entered on April 4, 2017 that rescheduled the hearing in this proceeding for Wednesday, May 24, 2017 and Thursday, May 25, 2017, in Pittsburgh. In addition, the litigation schedule was amended as follows:

* 1. On or before April 17, 2017, Applicant may amend its previously served testimony to reflect the substance of the Amendments to Applications for Siting Approval and for Authorization to Exercise the Power of Eminent Domain Substituting Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC Successor in Interest to Pennsylvania Electric Company, as Applicant, filed on March 16, 2017.
	2. On or before April 28, 2017, the parties, including the property owners and Protestant may serve additional or supplemental testimony in this proceeding.
	3. On or before May 8, 2017, Applicant may serve rebuttal testimony in this proceeding.
	4. Main Briefs shall be filed and served on or before June 23, 2017.
	5. Reply Briefs shall be filed and served on or before July 10, 2017.

 On May 8, 2017, Penelec filed two separate petitions for leave to withdraw and terminate the two above-captioned applications of Penelec to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire an easement and right-of-way, namely the Dick B. Lohr and Karen G. Lohr application filed at Docket No. A-2016-2565502 and the Kathy R. Kelley and Jeffrey Kelly application filed at Docket No. A-2016-2565547, pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§ 1.82 and 5.94(c), and requested that the undersigned presiding officer approve the petitions of Penelec to withdraw eminent domain proceedings pursuant to Sections 1.82 and 5.94(c) of the Commission’s regulations.

 No objections were filed to the petitions to withdraw the applications filed at Docket No. A-2016-2565502 (Lohr application) or Docket No. A-2016-2565547 (Kelley application). In its petitions to withdraweminent domain applications, Penelec averred that the subject property owners entered into agreements with Penelec for the grant of rights-of-way and easements over and across their land or an option therefor, thereby rendering the two subject condemnation applications unnecessary. Accordingly, thepetitions to withdraw eminent domain applications of Penelec filed at Docket Nos. A-2016-2565502 (property of Dick B. Lohr and Karen G. Lohr) and A-2016-2565547(property of Kathy R. Kelley and Jeffrey Kelly) were granted by interim order entered on May 17, 2017.

 The evidentiary hearing proceeded as scheduled on May 24, 2017. John L. Munsch, Esquire participated at the hearing on behalf of the Applicant. Peter J. Carfley, Esquire appeared on behalf of Katherine L. Ziegler, Fritz Land Holdings LP, Shirley Huston and Gary E. Lambert, Martha Lorraine Anderson and John S. Anderson, Keith A. Lohr, and Albert Stiles. Nancy MacRae, the sole protestant, did not attend the hearing.

 An interim order was entered on June 16, 2017 setting requirements for the filing of briefs and setting a deadline of July 21, 2017, for the parties to file their main briefs. The deadline was extended by agreement of the parties and approved by email to the parties. Applicant filed its brief on July 26, 2017. Katherine L. Ziegler, Fritz Land Holdings LP, Shirley Huston and Gary E. Lambert, Martha Lorraine Anderson and John S. Anderson, Keith A. Lohr, and Albert Stiles filed their brief in opposition to the application on July 27, 2017.

On August 29, 2017, Applicant filed Petitions for Leave to Withdraw the Application to Exercise the Power of Eminent Domain to Acquire an Easement and Right-of-Way Across Property of James B. MacRae, Jr. and Nancy MacRae at Docket No. A-2016-2565364 and property of Robindale Energy Services, Inc. at Docket No. A-2016-2565509. No objections were filed to the Petitions.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Petition for Leave to Withdraw the Application to Exercise the Power of Eminent Domain to Acquire an Easement and Right-of-Way Across the Property of James B. MacRae, Jr. and Nancy MacRae at Docket No. A-2016-2565364 is granted.
2. That the Petition for Leave to Withdraw the Application to Exercise the Power of Eminent Domain to Acquire an Easement and Right-of-Way Across the Property of

Robindale Energy Services, Inc. at Docket No. A-2016-2565509 is granted.

1. That the deadline to file briefs in this proceeding is extended until July 27, 2017.
2. That the record in the above-captioned matter filed at A-2016-2565296; A‑2016-2565326, A-2016-2565344, A-2016-2565360, A-2016-2565364, A‑2016-2565368, A‑2016-2565369, A-2016-2565377, A-2016-2565378, A-2016-2565472, A‑2016-2565480, A‑2016-2565502, A-2016-2565504, A-2016-2565509, A-2016-2565543, A‑2016-2565545, A‑2016-2565547, A-2016-2565549, A-2016-2565635, and A-2016-2565644 is closed.
3. That a Recommended Decision shall be prepared in this matter.

Date: August 31, 2017 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Jeffrey A. Watson

 Administrative Law Judge

**A-2016-2565296 APPLICATION OF PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY**

*(Revised 5/23/17)*

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1. An initial hearing notice was generated on March 1, 2017. The corrected hearing notice indicates that the purpose of the corrected notice was to correct the Service List attached to the corrected notice. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)