

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-3265**

**Application for Authorization of Pennsylvania
Electric Company to Site and
Construct the Bedford North-Central City West
115 kV HV New Transmission
Line Construction Project Situated in Central
City Borough and Shade Township, Somerset
County and Napier, East St. Clair, and Bedford
Townships. Bedford County. Pennsylvania**

**Public Meeting held February 8, 2018
2565296-ALJ**

Docket No. A-2016-2565296

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN GLADYS M. BROWN


Before the Commission for consideration and disposition is ALJ Watson's Recommended Decision granting the Application of Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec) for approval of the siting and construction of the high-voltage transmission line referred to as the Bedford North-Central City West 115 kV HV transmission line project and granting the Application to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire a certain portion of the lands of Robin F. Miller and Tammy J. Miller; Katherine L. Ziegler; Fritz Land Holdings LP; Shirley J. Huston and Gary E. Lambert; Martha Lorraine Anderson and John S. Anderson; Keith A. Lohr; Albert Stiles; and Vincent Beal.

I agree that Penelec has met the requirements established in the Commission's regulations regarding the siting and construction of a high voltage transmission line at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71-57.77. Moreover, the evidence presented by Penelec supports the ALJ's finding that the Project will have minimum adverse environmental impact, considering the electric power needs of the public, the state of available technology and the available alternatives and, therefore, the standard set forth in 52 Pa. Code § 57.76(a)(4) is satisfied.

Many of the landowners that protested the Application did so because of valid concerns regarding the manner in which the rights of way crossing their lands would be managed. Penelec has committed to keeping the lines of communication open with the affected landowners and to managing the ROWs in a manner that will not impair drinking water or crops. These commitments are an important part of why I am able to vote to approve the Application although I have previously voiced concerns over the vegetation management practices of another First Energy utility.¹ I note that the Commission's Review of EDC Vegetation Management Practices which was initiated this past August has not yet concluded but, I look forward reviewing the information and recommendations of that collaborative working group.

February 8, 2018

Date



Gladys M. Brown, Chairman

¹ See, Joint Motion of Chairman Gladys M. Brown and Commissioner David W. Sweet issued June 14, 2017, in the matter of *Robert Mattu v. West Penn Power Co.*, Docket No. C-2016-2547322.