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File #: 178012

August 19, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

**Re: Letter of Notification of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for Approval of the Glen Brook Substation 230 kV Connecting Lines Project in Salem Township, Luzerne County, PA
Docket No. P-2019-**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing is the Zoning Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation in the above-referenced proceeding. Copies will be provided to all parties concerned per the attached Certificate of Service.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica R. Rogers

JRR/cls
Enclosures

cc: Certificate of Service

**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 : Docket No. P-2019-_____
Approval of the Glen Brook Substation 230 :
kV Connecting Lines Project in Salem :
Township, Luzerne County, PA. :

PETITION OF PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (“PPL EU”) hereby petitions the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.41 and 53 P.S. § 10619, for a finding that the building to shelter control equipment (“Control House”) at the proposed Glen Brook 230/69 kV Substation (“Glen Brook Substation”) in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public and, therefore, exempt from any local zoning ordinance (“Zoning Petition”).¹ Subject to the Commission’s approval, construction of this Project is scheduled to begin in Fall 2020 to support the in service date of Winter 2021. In support of this Zoning Petition, PPL EU states as follows:

¹ PPL Electric believes its Control House is not a “building” but, rather, is part of the substation facilities. Therefore, PPL Electric’s Control House is exempt from local zoning requirements. *See, e.g., Duquesne Light Co. v. Upper St. Clair Township*, 377 Pa. 323, 334-35, 105 A.2d 287, 292 (1954). This Zoning Petition is being filed as a precaution in the event that the Commission determines that the Control House is not a facility and, therefore, potentially subject to local zoning ordinances.

I. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1. This Zoning Petition is filed by PPL EU, 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 EU's address is as follows:

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation
Two North Ninth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

3. PPL EU's attorneys are:

Michael J. Shafer (I.D. # 205681)
PPL Services Corporation
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Allentown, PA 18101
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PPL EU's attorneys are authorized to receive all notices and communications regarding this Zoning Petition.

4. PPL EU 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. PPL EU furnishes electric distribution, transmission, and provider of last resort electric supply services 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.

5. PPL EU owns approximately 5,000 miles of transmission lines operating at 69 kV (kilovolts) or higher, approximately 375 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. The proposed new Glen Brook Substation is needed to resolve voltage and thermal violations of PPL EU's transmission planning criteria on its 69 kV transmission system in the Berwick area. The new 230/69 kV Glen Brook Substation will resolve voltage and reliability violations that could result in extended customer outages and damage the Company's equipment.

7. The proposed Project will involve the construction of a new 230/69 kV substation, and approximately 0.5 miles of new parallel double circuit 230 kV transmission taps to connect the new substation to the transmission system. In addition, one 69 kV transmission line will be reconfigured in order to terminate it into the new substation.

8. Contemporaneously herewith, PPL EU is filing the "Letter of Notification of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for Approval of the Glen Brook Substation 230 kV Connecting Lines Project in Salem Township, Luzerne County, PA" ("Glen Brook Project Letter of Notification"). Therein, PPL EU is requesting approval to site and construct the 230 kV transmission lines associated with the Glen Brook Substation.

9. With the Glen Brook Project Letter of Notification, PPL EU is filing four Attachments, which provide additional detailed information regarding the Glen Brook Project.

10. A complete copy of the Glen Brook Project Letter of Notification has been served on all the same persons that are being served with this Zoning Petition. The Glen Brook Project Letter of Notification and supporting Attachments are incorporated herein by reference.

II. NEED FOR THE PROJECT

11. The current system configuration of the Company's system in the Berwick area results in two primary violations of PPL EU's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") Form 715 criteria. These violations were identified by PPL EU and confirmed by PJM Interconnection LLC ("PJM"). Detailed descriptions of the PJM planning process and PPL Electric's system planning process are provided in Attachment 1 to the Letter of Notification.

12. During the transmission planning process, PPL EU identified two violations of PPL EU's FERC 715 Form Criteria.

13. The first of the two identified violations of the PPL EU FERC Form 715 Criteria in the Berwick area is a voltage drop of more than 8% on the 69 kV voltage system. This will occur if either a 69 kV or 230 kV bus section circuit breaker at Columbia Substation fails. It will cause an outage for approximately 46,200 customers. The PPL EU 2017 Summer Peak planning studies indicate that Bloomsburg, Scott, Big Heart Pet Products, West Berwick, Bercon, Berwick, and Salem substations will experience a voltage drop of greater than 8% with the most severe being 19.77% if there is a 69 kV or 230 kV bus section circuit breaker failure at the Columbia Substation. This will also lead to lower than minimum acceptable voltage (0.893 per unit ("PU")). The PPL EU 2017 Summer Peak planning studies show that the 69 kV Columbia Substation bus section breaker failure will also reduce the Bloomsburg, Scott, Big Heart Pet Products, West Berwick, Bercon, Berwick, and Salem bus voltages to lower than the minimum acceptable voltage (0.893 PU) for the 69 kV system post bus section circuit breaker failure contingency, with the most severe low voltage experienced being 0.76 PU.

14. The second of these violations of the PPL EU FERC Form 715 Criteria is a thermal overload greater than 100% of the emergency rating of a 69 kV line, which will cause an outage for approximately 24,000 customers. The PPL EU 2017 Summer Peak planning studies

indicate that there are two contingencies that can result in a thermal overload greater than 100% of the emergency rating. The first contingency is a failure of a bus section circuit breaker at the 69 kV Columbia Substation which results in the Hunlock-Berwick 69 kV line experiencing a thermal overload of 107% of the emergency rating of the line. The second contingency is a double-circuit failure on the Susquehanna-Harwood #1 & #2 230 kV lines which results in the Hunlock-Berwick 69 kV line experiencing a thermal overload of 115% of the emergency rating of the line.

15. If PPL EU fails to appropriately resolve the thermal and voltage violations of the FERC Form 715 Planning Criteria in this area, and there is a failure of the 69kV or 230kV bus section circuit breaker at the Columbia Substation or a failure on the Susquehanna-Harwood 230 kV Transmission Line, then a local blackout (loss of Columbia, Harwood, and Hunlock sources), as explained above, would result in prolonged outages for approximately 24,000 to 46,200 customers. It would also leave PPL EU at risk of causing low voltage to thousands of customers. Voltage drop violations will affect the voltage and power quality provided to customers served from the affected transmission lines. Finally, failure to address the violations will expose PPL EU to equipment damage.

16. Detailed descriptions of the reliability violations identified by PPL EU are provided in Attachment 1 to the Letter of Notification.

III. THE PROPOSED PROJECT

17. To address the voltage and transmission violations in the Berwick area, PPL EU plans to build a new 230/69 kV substation, and approximately 0.5 miles of new parallel double circuit 230 kV transmission taps to connect the new substation to the transmission system. In

addition, the Hunlock-Berwick 69 kV Transmission Line will be reconfigured in order to terminate it into the new substation.

18. The Project will involve the construction of a new 230/69 kV substation, to be called the Glen Brook Substation, approximately 4.5 miles from the existing Berwick 69 kV Switchyard on property owned by PPL EU.

19. The Project will break the existing double-circuit Montour-Susquehanna 230 kV and Montour-Susquehanna T10 230 kV Transmission Lines and terminate the four lines into the new Glen Brook Substation. PPL EU will also break the Hunlock-Berwick 69 kV Transmission Line and terminate it into the Glen Brook Substation. Finally, the Company will rebuild the section of the Hunlock-Berwick 69 kV Transmission Line going south of the Glen Brook Substation into a double-circuit and tie it into the existing Columbia-Berwick 69 kV Transmission Line and the Harwood-Berwick 69kV Transmission Line. Without this transmission work, the new Glen Brook Substation cannot be placed in service.

20. The total length of the new 230 kV transmission lines to be constructed is approximately 0.5 miles.

21. The total estimated cost of the proposed Project is \$65.7 million, which includes approximately \$7.2 million for the parallel double circuit 230 kV transmission taps, \$39 million for the new Glen Brook Substation, \$18.4 million of 69 kV transmission line work and \$1.1 million for modifications at the Berwick Substation.²

² 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 conditions. 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.

22. Figure 3-1 in Attachment 3 to the Glen Brook Project Letter of Notification provides an aerial map of the proposed facilities.

23. A further explanation and description of the proposed Glen Brook Project is provided in the Attachments accompanying the Glen Brook Project Letter of Notification.

24. The new Glen Brook Substation will include a Control House. The Glen Brook Substation must include certain switches, relays, and other control equipment to control the flow of electricity into, within, and from the substation. In order to function properly, much of this equipment must be protected from the elements. The purpose of the enclosure is to protect the control equipment at the proposed Glen Brook Substation from the elements so that the control equipment, and the entire substation, can function properly.

25. The Control House will be a steel framed metal enclosure constructed on a concrete foundation. The exterior walls will be constructed of corrugated aluminum or similar material. The Control House will be heated and cooled to maintain the temperature inside the enclosures within the limits required for the control equipment to operate properly. The enclosure will not be intended for human occupancy.

26. The property on which the Glen Brook Substation will be located is approximately 30 acres. The Control House will be approximately 3,200 square feet.

27. Access to the Substation property, including the enclosure, must be limited because the high voltages at which the Substation will operate present hazards to untrained persons. The Glen Brook Substation will be surrounded by a fence that will be approximately 12-feet in height and will prevent entry by unauthorized persons. The fenced area for the Glen Brook Substation will be approximately 6 acres. The enclosure will be contained within the fenced perimeter of the Glen Brook Substation.

28. As explained above, the new Glen Brook Substation will be located 4.5 miles from the existing Berwick 69 kV Switchyard, and within 0.4 miles of an existing 230 kV transmission line right-of-way, which will be interconnected with the Substation. The location of the Glen Brook Substation will minimize the length of transmission lines needed to connect the Glen Brook Substation to the electric grid, as well as minimize the costs and environmental impacts of addressing the reliability concerns in the region.

29. Provided as “**Appendix A**” hereto is an exhibit showing the location of the tract of land on which the proposed Glen Brook Substation, together with the enclosure, will be constructed.

IV. EXEMPTION FROM LOCAL ZONING

30. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (“MPC”) provides, in relevant part, as follows:

This article shall not apply to any existing or proposed building, or extension thereof, used or to be used by a public utility corporation, if, upon petition of the corporation, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission shall, after public hearing, decide that the present or proposed situation of the building in question is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public.

Section 619 of the MPC, Act of July 31, 1968, P.L. 805, *as amended*, 53 P.S. § 10619. Thus, a municipality may zone a public utility building, unless the Commission determines that the building is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public. If the Commission finds that the building is reasonably necessary, the building is exempt from local zoning ordinances under the MPC. *Del-AWARE Unlimited, Inc. v. Pa. P.U.C.*, 513 A.2d 593, 596 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1986).

31. As explained above, and more fully in the Glen Brook Project Letter of Notification and supporting Attachments, the Glen Brook Project, including the Glen Brook Substation, is necessary to resolve reliability violations that present a threat to the public and to the Company's equipment. The new Glen Brook Project Substation will alleviate the voltage and transmission violations identified on PPL EU's 69 kV system.

32. As explained above, the Glen Brook Substation must include certain equipment in order to operate properly, and said equipment must be protected from the elements. The most efficient and appropriate means of protecting the equipment at this substation is construction of a Control House on the site proposed for the new Glen Brook Substation.

33. Because the Glen Brook Project, including the Glen Brook Substation, is reasonably necessary for the public convenience and welfare, the Commission should find that the Control House is reasonably necessary and, therefore, exempt from Salem Township's local zoning ordinance pursuant to Section 619 of the MPC. *Del-AWARE Unlimited, Inc. v. Pa. P.U.C.*, 513 A.2d 593 (Pa. Cmwlth. 1986).

V. THE SALEM TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

34. On January 11, 2001, the Commission adopted a policy statement to further the Commonwealth's goal of making agency actions consistent with sound land use planning by considering the impact of its decision upon local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. *See* 31 Pa.B. 951 (Feb. 17, 2001). Section 69.1101 of the Commission's Regulations provides:

[T]he Commission will consider the impact of its decisions upon local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. This will include reviewing applications for:

(2) Siting electric transmission lines.

(3) Siting a public utility “building” under section 619 of the Municipalities Planning Code (53 P.S. § 10619)....

52 Pa. Code § 69.1101.

35. Salem Township adopted the “Salem Township Zoning Ordinance” on March 28, 1995, to address all land use issues, and has amended its Zoning Ordinance as recently as May 13, 2014. *See* ZONING ORDINANCE, Salem Township, Luzerne County, *as amended* (May 13, 2014).³

36. The substation site for the Glen Brook Substation is zoned as A-1 Agricultural District. Public utilities facilities are a permitted use in A-1 zoning districts. *See* Salem Township Zoning Ordinance § 501.1. Public utilities facilities are defined in Article 2 as:

[E]lectric...lines, equipment and structures; water or gas pipes, mains, valves or structures, pumping stations; telephone exchanges and all other facilities, equipment and structures necessary for conducting a service by public utility.

(emphasis added). *See* Salem Township Zoning Ordinance Art. 2. Structures are defined broadly to include “any man-made object, the use of which requires an ascertainable stationary location on land, whether or not it is affixed to the land.” *See id.* Public utilities facilities as defined in Article 2 are subject to further zoning requirements established in Section 802.24. *See* Salem Township Zoning Ordinance § 802.24.

37. PPL EU’s proposed project appears to be consistent with the Salem Township Zoning Ordinance, because the erection, construction, and maintenance of public utility facilities are a permitted use in an A-1 Agricultural District. However, those facilities would be subject to other conditions imposed by the Salem Township Zoning Ordinance, including Section 802.24.

³ The Salem Township Zoning Ordinance, *as amended*, is voluminous and, therefore, is not being reproduced with this Zoning Petition. The entire Salem Township Zoning Ordinance is publicly available at: http://salemtownshipluzerne.info/Documents/Zoning-Ord_Amended-05-13-2014.pdf (last visited August 19, 2019).

38. The Salem Township Zoning Ordinance provides certain conditions and restrictions that must be met for PPL EU to commence work on and begin use of the Glen Brook Substation Control House.

39. For these reasons, PPL Electric herein requests that the Commission find that the Control House at the proposed new Glen Brook Substation is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public and is, therefore, exempt from the requirements of the Salem Township Zoning Ordinance that may impose restrictions, conditions, or regulations on the construction of the Control House at the Glen Brook Substation.

40. PPL Electric has provided information to representatives of Salem Township and Luzerne County describing the Glen Brook Substation Project. These entities have not objected to the Project. Further, as indicated in the attached certificate of service, PPL Electric is serving a copy of this Zoning Petition on Salem Township, Luzerne County, and their respective planning commissions.

41. In addition, in all of its interactions with Salem Township, Luzerne County, and their respective planning commissions, PPL Electric will continue to apply its long-standing policy of cooperating with local governments.

VI. RELATED PROCEEDINGS

42. Contemporaneously with the filing of this Zoning Petition, PPL Electric is filing the Glen Brook Project Letter of Notification with the Commission. Therein, PPL Electric is requesting approval to site and construct the Glen Brook Project, including the proposed Glen Brook Substation and Control House that are the subject of this Zoning Petition. Issues relating to the necessity for the Glen Brook Project are interrelated with this Zoning Petition.

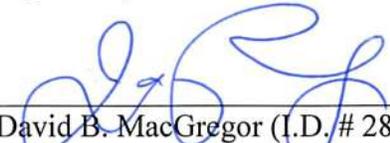
43. Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 57.75, PPL Electric requests that these related proceedings be consolidated for purposes of hearings, if necessary, and decision.

VII. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission: (1) consolidate this Glen Brook Project Zoning Petition with the Glen Brook Project Letter of Notification contemporaneously filed herewith; and (2) find that the Control House to shelter control equipment at the Glen Brook 230/69 kV Substation in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public and, therefore, is exempt from the zoning ordinance of the Salem Township.

Respectfully submitted,

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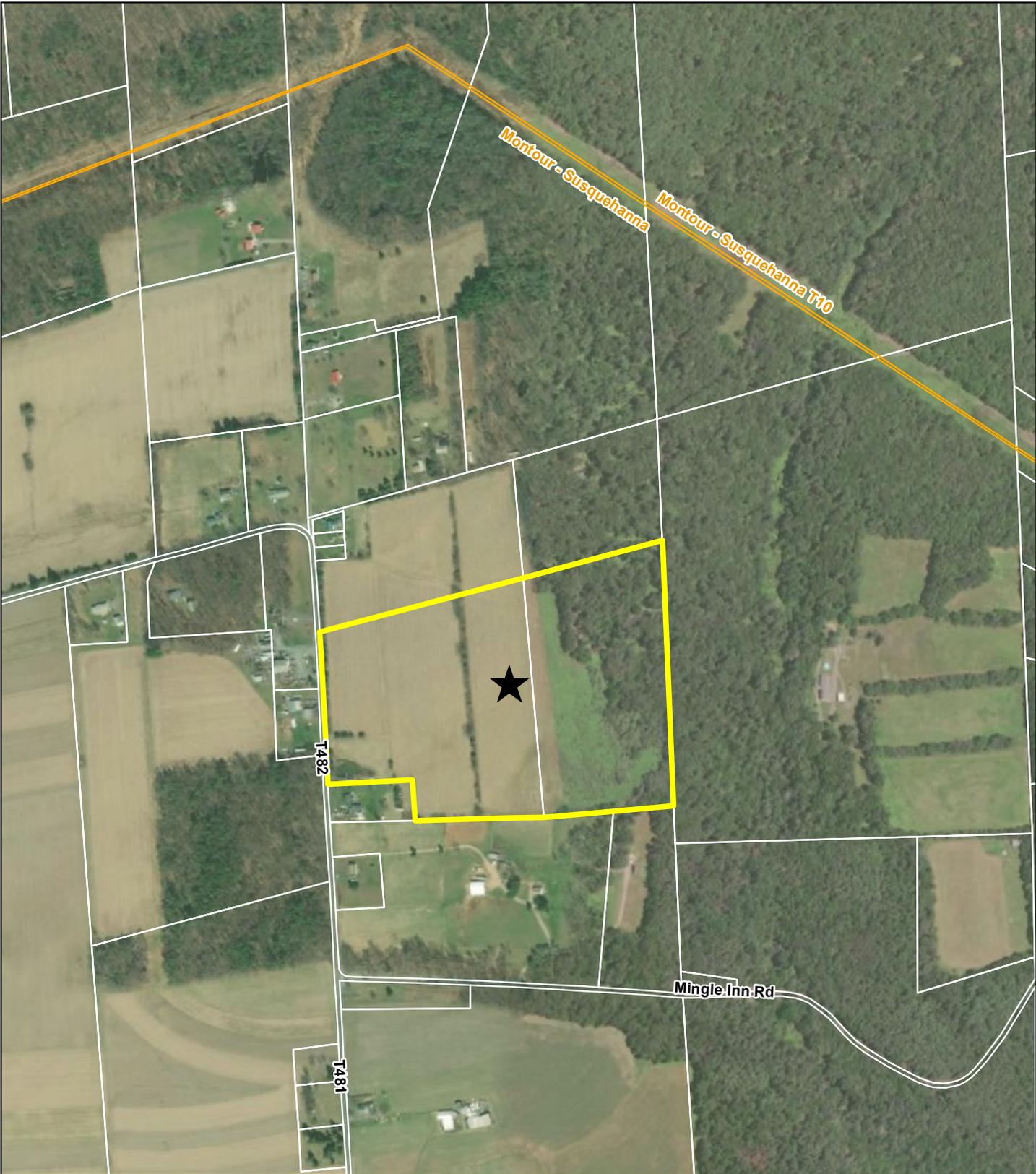


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Date: August 19, 2019

Attorneys for PPL Electric Utilities Corporation

APPENDIX A



- ★ Beta Substation Site
- Parcel Boundaries
- New Parcel Boundary - Site
- Existing 230 kV Transmission Line

N

Coordinate System:
PA State Plane North
NAD 83

August 16, 2019



Glen Brook Substation
Salem Township
Luzerne County, PA

Site Location

0 300 600 900
Feet

VERIFICATION

I, DAVID A. QUIER being the DIRECTOR OF ASSET MANAGEMENT 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: 8/16/2019



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mary Canouse
405 Moores Hill Road
Berwick, PA 18603

John R. Evans
Small Business Advocate
Office of Small Business Advocate
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Tanya J. McCloskey, Esquire
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Richard Kanaskie, Esquire
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Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

PA Department of Environmental Protection
Market Street State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Attn: Office of Field Operations

PA Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd
floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0053
Attn: Douglas C. McLearn, Chief

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
Attn: Jason D. Sharp, Acting Chief Counsel

PA Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
P.O. Box 8767
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8767
Attn: Rebecca Bowen

Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Attn: Olivia Mowery

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9620
Attn: Christopher A. Urban

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District Corporate
Communication Office
2 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21201
Attn: Planning Division

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, PA 16801
Attn: Lesa Lindsay

Luzerne County Conservation District
325 Smiths Pond Road
Shavertown, PA 18708

Salem Township
Planning Commission
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Berwick, PA 18603
Attn: Randy Rinehimer

Luzerne County Planning Commission
20 North Pennsylvania Avenue #208
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Salem Township
Board of Commissioners
38 Bomboy Lane
Berwick, PA 18603
Attn: Richard Talanca

Date: August 19, 2019



Jessica R. Rogers