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February 8, 2021

Docket # C-2020-3023494

We object to West Penn Power's request for dismissal of our Formal Complaint before the Public Utility Commission as it relates to the October 12, 2020 incident of the commercial/industrial high voltage line falling on the 12kV residential service line creating a power surge and causing significant damages to our electrical devises in our residence.

Our objection is based on the following facts:

1. In a similar incident that occurred a few years after we moved into our current home in 1996, a high-voltage commercial/industrial 50kV line also fell on our residential service line. The damage resulting then is the same in scope and severity as the October 12, 2020 power surge incident. In response to our submitted damage claim for the earlier power surge incident, West Penn Power fully reimbursed us for all damages and replacement costs.
2. With the experience West Penn Power has with damages sustained by running commercial high voltage power lines in tandem with low voltage residential service lines, proper surge suppression technology should have been employed to prevent surge incidents as is currently utilized for natural lightning strike surges.
3. We believe that our residential service line originates from the West Penn Power substation which is located halfway between the Waynesburg South incident location and our home location. Our home location is 3 miles due west, not south of Waynesburg. Surge prevention measures incorporated at the West Penn Power substation, where the low voltage residential and high voltage commercial/industrial lines are conjoined for transmission, would have provided protection by isolating our residential service line from the high voltage commercial/industrial line.
4. We call into question the description of the October 12, 2020 incident as relayed on page 3 of the West Penn Power New Matter document. West Penn Power relays that a 70 ft. live cherry tree located 50 ft. outside of West Penn Power's right-of-way on Emerald Mine Resources private property fell causing the high voltage commercial/industrial service line to come into contact with the residential service line.

What we call into question from this description is why the West Penn Power right-of-way on Emerald Mine Resources commercially zoned private property is not to utility code specifications for a commercial/industrial right-of-way.

The larger commercial/industrial right-of-way utility code specification would have prevented the power surge entirely.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary and Deborah Reynolds