

February 8, 2021

Harry E. & Carol M. Patton  
620 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

(724) 825-3145

Docket # C-2020-3023494

To Whom It May Concern:

We are submitting this documentation in objection to West Power's request to dismiss our Formal Complaint to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) relating to the October 12, 2020 of the commercial /industrial high voltage line falling on the 12kV residential service line that resulted in extensive damage to major appliances and damage to our home. Several thousands of dollar's worth of electrical appliances and devices in our home were damaged as well as the highest voltage surge protector on the external portion of the house. A similar event occurred only two months prior and we had our external surge protector replaced and it was still under warranty at the time of this October 12, 2020 event.

Our objection to dismissal of this case is grounded in, substantiated, and supported by the following data/facts/details:

1. **A similar power surge occurred approximately 2 months prior to this event also resulting in extensive damage to home appliances and devices.** We had just replaced these items out of our own budget during the pandemic when this was hugely costly and home owner's insurance would not cover these damages.
2. **West Penn Power has knowledge and history of similar damages and there were 12 homes on our road, Hill Schoolhouse Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370 all receiving similar damages and loss of expensive electrical appliances and devices on the same day at the same time.** The damages experienced by residents on Hill Schoolhouse Road were in the thousands and West Penn Power needs to be held accountable to prevent these types of surge events and incidents through proper strategies to prevent this type of major catastrophic damage to home owners in locations where they have known commercial high voltage power lines running in or in close tandem and location to known low voltage residential service power lines where these kinds of events are known to have previously occurred or are likely to occur. For example, these areas are known to be problematic from history of multiple previous and known similar events and West Penn Power needs to employ equipment or proper surge protection to prevent similar events from reoccurring. This is not an unfamiliar event. It is not reasonable to put equipment and/or technology in place to prevent reoccurrence of this same type of damage that could and has reoccurred in two months or even days. Who can sustain this type of unknown and extensive damage!

**Homes on Hill Schoolhouse Road, Waynesburg, PA incurring extensive damage on October 12, 2020 include the following residences and addresses:**

Mrs. Carolyn Grimes  
124 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Mr. Keith Higgenbotham  
352 Hill Schoolhouse  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Mrs. Debbie Johnson  
214 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Reynolds  
372 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Headlee  
196 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Polly Davin & Carl Zeth  
469 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Mrs. William Leskosky  
180 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Mr. James Jacobs  
369 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Dr. David P. Odasso  
575 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Mr. Shelby Phillips  
160 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Mr. & Mrs. Randy Orndoff  
581 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Mr. Harry E. Patton  
620 Hill Schoolhouse Road  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

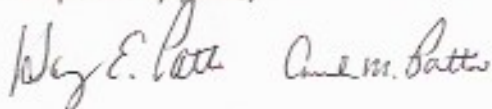
**3. The West Penn Power substation where our power originates for our residential service is located at the halfway point between the Waynesburg South event/incident and our home located at 620 Hill Schoolhouse Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370. Our home is located west of Waynesburg, not South of Waynesburg, Had West Penn Power had the proper surge prevention measures incorporated at the West Penn Power substation, the location where the low voltage residential and the high voltage commercial lines are joined for transmission, our low voltage residential lines would have not been impacted by the high voltage commercial/industrial line.**

**4. The explanation we were provided from West Penn Power Company related to our inquiry of the October 12, 2020 incident is provided on page 3 of the West Penn Power New Matter document. It is unacceptable to tell 12 homeowners that this event resulting in thousands of dollars of damages to these homeowners was caused when an off right-of-way 70 foot live cherry tree located 50 feet outside the West Penn Power Company right-of-way on the property of Emerald Mine Resources fell resulting in the high voltage commercial/industrial power lines to come into contact with the low voltage residential power lines resulting in the severe damages to these 12 home owners on the same road.**

5. **This is an egregious event that begs the question and causes one to wonder why West Penn Power Company is not taking ownership and responsibility for this atrocious power event that resulted in extensive damage to 12 homes on the same day at the same time.** This series of events and explanations really begs the question as to why the West Penn Power Company right-of-way located on the Emerald Mine Resources private property and is commercially zoned is not held to the standards one expects in compliance and adherence with utility specifications and codes for a commercially-zoned right-of-way utility code specification that clearly would minimize and/or prevent this type of event and extensive damages like those experienced by residents on Hill Schoolhouse Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370 in the October 12, 2020 event as well as in the future.

**We are vehemently objecting to the request from West Penn Power Company to dismiss our formal complaint before the Pennsylvania PUC related to the October 12, 2020 power surge event resulting in thousands of dollar's worth of damage to 12 homes on Hill Schoolhouse Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370.** There must be some accountability from West Penn Power Company as this is not the first time in the recent past this type of event has occurred. What is to say this might not happen with increasing frequency and who can afford this type of worry and risk when the ownership is on West Penn Power Company to correct and right this wrong situation with the technology and equipment to protect innocent homeowners and other public! Not only all this but someone can be killed with this type of power surge coming into their home not to mention the psychological harm and fear when there is a sound of a cannon firing and an immediate ball of fire with light that appears in your kitchen with this type of surge like I experienced. Is this the service and response we really expect from a 21<sup>st</sup> century power company that is accountable to public safety? **This is a terrifying, psychological traumatic experience and I do not ever want to have this experience again. Events like this are critical public health safety issues that must be addressed and dealt with accordingly.**

Respectfully yours,



Mr. Harry E. & Carol M. Patton