

*Via electronic service only due to Emergency Order at Docket No. M-2020-3019262*

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Petition of PECO Energy Company for a Finding : P-2021-3024328  
Of Necessity Pursuant to 53 P.S. § 10619 that the :  
Situation of Two Buildings Associated with a Gas :  
Reliability Station in Marple Township, Delaware :  
County Is Reasonably Necessary for the :  
Convenience and Welfare of the Public :

**INTERIM ORDER  
CURING *EX PARTE* COMMUNICATION AND  
ATTACHING COMMENTS TO RECORD**

On April 1, 2021, the undersigned's legal assistant received an email containing comments regarding the above-captioned matter. The comments consist of a two-page document signed by two Pennsylvania state legislators, Representative Jennifer O'Mara and Senator Tim Kearney. The email was sent to the undersigned's legal assistant and the Commission's Director of Legislative Affairs and was not copied to any party in this proceeding. The comments are not attached to the Commission's online docket as of the issuance of this Order and are attached to this Order as Attachment A.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

The comments sent to the undersigned's legal assistant on April 1, 2021 and signed by Representative Jennifer O'Mara and Senator Tim Kearney are made part of the record in this proceeding.

Date: April 2, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Emily I. DeVoe  
Administrative Law Judge



April 1, 2021

Ms. Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
PA Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

**RE: Docket #P-2021-3024328**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

We are contacting you today in our official capacity to express our opposition to the location of PECO's proposed Natural Gas Reliability Station in Marple Township, Delaware County, which is located our respective House and Senate Districts.

In May 2020, PECO began a Natural Gas Reliability Project in Montgomery and Delaware counties and they cited this is necessary to meet the growing needs of the residents. As part of the 11.5 mile project, PECO announced they are installing approximately one and a half miles of new natural gas main in Marple Township and a natural gas reliability station on Sproul Road, as well as upgrading our natural gas plant in West Conshohocken.

The location of the natural gas reliability station in Broomall that PECO selected is at the corner of Cedar Grove and Sproul Roads. This is a densely populated area of the neighborhood with hundreds of residents living within one mile of the station. There is also a row of local businesses within the same block, and a public elementary school housing hundreds of children less than one mile down Sproul Road. According to Marple Township Code Chapter 300 Article V Section 300 37-39, a public utility facility project must receive a Special Exception to qualify for approval in District N (defined as a Neighborhood Center permitting "low-intensity retail establishments and offices"). Said facility must not cause harm, hardship, or adverse effects to the community.

There are many concerns about the harm, hardship, and adverse effects to the community that would be caused by constructing a natural gas reliability station in one of our neighborhoods. These concerns include, but are not limited to:

1. A highly-trafficked, accident-prone intersection will be rendered even more dangerous, with heightened risks of harm due to the perimeter wall limiting sight distances with yet unknown impact resistance; collisions could result in much more serious injuries and/or

outright disaster, especially if gas is released into the air in the presence of an ignition source;

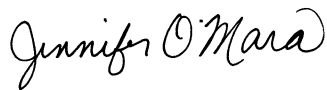
2. PECO does not allow access for local EMS and announced an up-to-one hour response time for their personnel, creating a potentially dangerous situation for the area; and
3. There is a significant likelihood of increased pollution affecting air quality, contributing to greenhouse gasses, light, noise, and radio waves, potentially in excess of acceptable levels.

These issues present very real potential hardship and harm to our elderly, disabled, and seriously ill residents, group-home occupants, and children attending Russell Elementary, as well as neighborhood business patrons, employees, and owners. Furthermore, the efforts to move forward with constructing this facility in this location is in direct opposition to Marple Township and its residents. In fact, the Marple Township Commissioners denied PECO's request for a Special Exception for the property to be zoned for utility use on November 18, 2020.

We understand that there is a need for PECO to meet the demand of their growing consumer base and we are not opposed to its construction in general. We are opposed to the construction of this facility at the corner of Cedar Grove and Sproul Roads and have repeatedly asked PECO to work with Marple Township and its residents to find a location that meets the company's needs, while simultaneously protecting and preserving the safety and prosperity of the residents. Marple Township officials and residents have made repeated attempts to provide alternative locations in industrial areas of the town, to which PECO continuously refuses. PECO petitioning the Public Utility Commission after being denied a Special Exception for the location is the exact opposite of working with the community that will be directly affected by this construction. As such, we are respectfully requesting a public hearing on this docket so that all affected stakeholders have the opportunity to hear this case.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions or wish to further discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jennifer O'Mara  
165<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Tim Kearney  
26<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

Cc: Dan Pallas via electronic mail  
Marple Township Board of Commissioners via electronic mail

**P-2021-3024328 - PETITION OF PECO ENERGY COMPANY FOR A FINDING OF NECESSITY PURSUANT TO 53 P.S. § 10619 THAT THE SITUATION OF TWO BUILDINGS ASSOCIATED WITH A GAS RELIABILITY STATION IN MARPLE TOWNSHIP, DELAWARE COUNTY IS REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR THE CONVENIENCE AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC.**

*Revised 3/16/21*

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