### BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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

Docket No.: P-2021-3024328

# PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM OF MARPLE TOWNSHIP, DELAWARE COUNTY

#### TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE, EMILY I. DeVOE

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §5.222(d) and the April 5, 2021 Prehearing Conference Order,

Marple Township, Delaware County, Intervenor in this action, hereby files this Prehearing

Conference Memorandum. For the purposes of the Prehearing Conference, J. Adam Matlawski,

Esq. will be the primary speaker.

- I. PRESENTLY IDENTIFIED ISSUES. The following list represents Marple

  Township's preliminary determination of potential issues in these proceedings,

  pending discovery and analysis of party positions. Marple Township specifically

  reserves the right to address other appropriate issues that may emerge during

  discovery. The preliminary issues are as follows:
  - a. Reasonable Necessity. Whether the proposed site and/or the proposed project is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public. It is Marple Township's position that PECO cannot meet its burden on either issue as it has not produced any evidence, including but not limited to studies, data, testing, etc. of the need for any Gas Reliability Station, or any need for a Gas Reliability Station at the proposed location.

- b. Suitability. It is Marple Township's position that the proposed site is not suitable for a Gas Reliability Station. Furthermore, it is the Township's belief that, contrary to the assertions in its Petition, PECO did not meaningfully consider any other location for this station. PECO's proposed use as a Gas Reliability Station is not appropriate for the Property and would be injurious to public health, safety and general welfare. There are other locations within the Township which are suitable for this facility and do not have the same issues raised by this site. The Township is willing to work with PECO to help identify the most suitable location for the proposed facility.
- c. Zoning and Comprehensive Plans. The Commission, per its policy statement, must consider the impact of its decisions upon local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. Additionally, PECO should exhaust its remedies with the Courts prior to seeking intervention of the PUC.
- d. Safety. It is Marple Township's position that the proposed project is in dangerous proximity to an already high-volume traffic and accident-prone intersection increasing the risk and severity of accident-related injury and property damage. The unknown circumstances regarding a response to an emergency and whether local first responders will have access to render aid is highly concerning. Finally, the safety of the operation of the Gas Reliability Station itself has not been proven by PECO.
- e. Noise and light. Marple Township is not satisfied with the information, or lack thereof, from PECO regarding the noise level (given the "first of its kind" nature of the station) and lighting in and around the site.

- f. Novelty and site visit. Given the novelty of the proposed Gas Reliability station, these proceedings should not be rushed. Marple Township requests adequate time to fully analyze any and all evidence and data provided by PECO, including ample time for expert evaluation and reports. A site visit is also appropriate in this particular situation.
- g. Community Outreach. Marple Township fully disagrees with PECO's position regarding community outreach and working with the Township. The Township, both formally and informally, has made many suggestions to PECO which have gone ignored.
- h. Petition for Reconsideration. On or about April 13, 2021, a Petition was filed for reconsideration of staff action to allow additional time for formal protests.
   Marple Township supports the request to extend the deadline for formal protests.
- i. Marple does not have the burden of proof in this proceeding and cannot anticipate all issues that may arise. Marple therefore reserves the right to raise additional issues as this matter proceeds and further information and discovery is obtained from PECO.
- II. PROPOSED PLAN AND DISCOVERY SCHEDULE. Marple Township has agreed to serve PECO with its discovery requests by Friday, April 23, 2021. Marple requests adequate time to review discovery and engage expert witnesses.
- III. PROPOSED WITNESSES. Marple Township currently intends to call the following witnesses, without being limited thereto:
  - a. Lawrence J. Gentile, Marple Township Manager, 227 S Sproul Road, Broomall,
     PA 19008. Mr. Gentile will testify concerning PECO's contact with the

- Township, the suitability of the proposed site, the existence of other suitable sites, the concerns of Marple Township.
- b. Joseph Mastronardo, PE, Pennoni Associates Inc., 1900 Market Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Mr. Mastronardo will testify concerning the suitability of the proposed site given surrounding residential and commercial facilities and the availability of other suitable sites.
- c. Brandon Graeff, Marple Township Chief of Police, 1001 Sussex Boulevard, Broomall, PA 19008. Chief Graeff will testify concerning the traffic and history of accidents at and around the proposed site.
- d. Jim Capuzzi, President, Broomall Fire Company, 1 North Malin Road, Broomall, PA 19008; Township Fire Marshal. Mr. Capuzzi will testify concerning fire safety, hazards and any issues surrounding first responder access to the site.
- e. Expert Witnesses to be identified upon receipt of discovery from PECO and evaluation of same.
- f. Representatives to be identified from the citizen's group Marple Safety Coalition. Witnesses will testify concerning PECO's lack of outreach, contact and explanation of the project.
- g. Marple Township reserves the right to call witnesses as necessary to address issues that may arise during the course of discovery and during these proceedings and will provide the ALJ and other parties to this matter reasonable notice thereof.
- IV. PROPOSED LITIGATION SCHEDULE. Marple Township will work with the parties to develop a mutually agreeable schedule. PECO has proposed a schedule and shared it with Marple Township. Marple requests at least thirty (30) days after the

receipt of PECO's response to Marple's discovery requests and written testimony to present its rebuttal to PECO's case in chief and to present Marple's case. Marple requests two (2) weeks to submit its reply brief.

Respectfully Submitted, MCNICHOL, BYRNE & MATLAWSKI, P.C.

/s/

J. Adam Matlawski, Esq. Attorney I.D. No.: 41678 Kaitlyn T. Searls, Esq. Attorney I.D. No.: 311237 1223 N. Providence Road Media, PA 19063

Dated: April 20, 2021

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Reliability Station in Marple Township, Delaware

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Prehearing Conference Memorandum of Marple Township, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code §1.54 (relating to service by a participant) in the manner listed below upon the parties listed below:

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Dated: April 20, 2021

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