

March 13, 2022

Ms. Rosemary Chiavetta, Esquire
Secretary
PA Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Re: Docket No. C-2021-3028278

Rebecca Walizer v. Metropolitan Edison Company & Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC
Preliminary Objections of Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC to my Amended Complaint

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

In response to the Preliminary Objections submitted by Margaret A. Morris, I am submitting the following written response.

I. Procedural Background

1. I agree that I filed an Amended Complaint to include MAIT and First Energy as a respondent to my original complaint filed 8/27/2021 objecting to the rebuild of the .37-mile, 69 kV Overhead Transmission Line which runs through the middle of my entire development.

PLEASE NOTE: 37 of 39 residents within our development voiced their objections.

2. I agree with the facts that the transmission line was constructed approximately 30 years before the development was built. I agree it does not cross my property line. I do not agree that I am NOT impacted by the transmission lines.

The influx of safety concerns of these poles has become more apparent over the years as new information unfolds within professional and social media. I have been more informed of the dangers of these lines as the years pass. This is MY neighborhood, where I live, where I should be able to walk in peace of mind and comfort knowing wherever I walk my health and the health of my family and neighbors will not be compromised by these overhead lines. Every time I walk or drive through my neighborhood these lines create sadness as I fear the unknown effects of the electromagnetic field exposure. Studies have concluded that more studies need to be done to determine the safety of this exposure. Thus, not safe for sure until proven. These poles and lines tower and shadow over our beautiful open land which has not been fully enjoyed over the last 30 years as it could have been and as it should be.

As an additional note of safety concerns: Over the years, the news and social media have provided increasing information on the unnecessary deaths caused by electrical line and transformer fires as well as downed electrical lines. One death is one too many when it could

have been avoided. Our neighborhood has experienced at least 2 of these episodes of transformer fires. The news and other media sources provide information regarding those died due to overhead power line issues had their families make claims for them. I am sure they would have rather chosen life than make that claim. We are at the point where there is a choice to make these lines safer. The right choice is the safer choice. The protection of human life is of far greater importance than cost or a company's bottom line.

It would be better to avoid these dreadful incidents than to have one occur and lose another life.

Secondary to the health and safety concern is the negative effect these lines impose on the value of my home. Transmission lines affect property values adversely. Comps are used to determine the value of a home by comparing it to similar properties sold in the same neighborhood. If my neighbors home value is negatively affected due to these above ground transmission lines, mine will be as well.

3. I disagree that I lack standing to file a complaint. Please refer to my response to #2. If I am directly impacted, I have standing to file this complaint.

Also note: Our township has addressed above ground power line concerns with the establishment of the township ordinance § 185-38 **Underground wiring** CURRENTLY reads: All electric, telephone, television and other communication service lines which are newly installed to serve a development activity regulated by this chapter shall be installed underground. While this code does NOT pertain to this transmission line as the easement preceded the code; however, it substantiates there is a VALID REASON to undergrounding the lines or the township would not have adopted the code. This code preserves the safety of our community and protects land value. Just as the township had valid reasons to establish this code, I have valid reasons to file this complaint and I do have standing.

II. Argument

4. As stated
5. As stated
6. As stated. As noted in my prior responses, I have a direct, immediate and substantial interest in the subject matter of this proceeding.
7. As stated. To suggest this is a "frivolous, harassing lawsuit whose costs are ultimately borne, at least in part, by utility ratepayers" is concerning. This leads me to believe First Energy, Metropolitan Edison, MAIT and individuals representing those companies place their own financial concerns above the health and welfare of those us who ARE ACTUALLY PAYING the bill. I am not paying First Energy/Met Ed for my electric power; however, I AM paying the bill to PP&L. And as a matter of fact, I am paying for the undergrounding of several transmission lines within our township. PP&L has

undergrounded **several transmission lines** at the request of our township supervisors. One of the undergrounding projects was completed due to neighborhood complaints similar to ours. PP&L heard the cries of those people and I ACTUALLY PAY FOR THOSE UNDERGROUND LINES with the payment of my monthly bill. I have no complaints. I commend and respect PP&L for their support of the health and well-being of our township and our community. Again, I have no complaints to my increased rate due to the undergrounding. I support my neighbors and my community, as well. First Energy/Met Ed should step up to the plate and hear our pleas as PP&L heard the pleas from our community and the Derry Township.

8. I disagree that this is a matter of “mere conjecture” about possible future harm. Instead, I believe that stating overhead transmission lines are not harmful is a mere conjecture. Please note the following:

- a. The American Cancer Society states in their article found at <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/radiation-exposure/extremely-lowfrequency-radiation.html> “there are no good ways to accurately estimate someone’s long-term exposure, which is what matters most when looking for possible effects on cancer.” And also notes in that article: “In 1999, the US **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)** described the scientific evidence suggesting that ELF exposure poses a health risk as “weak,” but noted that it cannot be recognized as entirely safe, and considered it to be a “possible” human carcinogen.”

Thus, one can safely conclude the data is inconclusive on the effects of the electromagnetic field exposure from these above ground transmission lines which I walk below as does my family. This is not conjecture, this is fact.

Since these poles MUST be replaced, now is the best time to place underground. I am not only considering this for the safety and land value concerns; I am also thinking of the cost. Use the expense that will be afforded for this project towards the undergrounding. Now is the most cost-effective time to place these lines underground. Also, as a side note: Derry Township has an upcoming project in our common area and I asked if it could be possible that costs be shared. The answer was possibly. This could be one way to lessen the cost of the undergrounding.

9. As noted in my prior responses, the transmission line does not cross my property; however, I am directly affected and have substantive interest in this project.

I kindly request that my filed Amended Complaint not be dismissed or denied as I believe I do have a valid standing in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Walizer

Cc: The Hon. Mark A. Hoyer, PA Public Utility Commission

The Hon. John Coogan, PA Public Utility Commission

Tori Giesler, Esquire, FirstEnergy Service Company

Margaret A. Morris, Esquire