

**PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, PA 17120**

Public Meeting held April 14, 2022

Commissioners Present:

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairman
John F. Coleman, Jr., Vice Chairman
Ralph V. Yanora

Letter of Notification of PECO Energy Company
for approval to Replace Existing Transmission
Line Structures in East Fallowfield Township and
the City of Coatesville, Chester County,
Pennsylvania

Docket Number:
A-2022-3030419

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On January 13, 2022, PECO Energy Company (PECO), Utility Code 110550, filed a Letter of Notification (LON) pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(vi) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's (Commission) transmission line siting regulation. For the reasons expressed in this Order, the LON is approved.

Copies of the LON were served in accordance with Section 57.72(d)(3) and 57.74(b) & (c), 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.72(d)(3), 57.74(b) & (c), on the PA Department of Transportation, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Historical and Museum Commission, Chester County Commissioners, and East Fallowfield Township, and the City of Coatesville, *et al.* No protests were filed. No hearings were held.

PECO requests approval to replace existing transmission line structures in East Fallowfield Township and the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania. PECO states that the structures to be replaced are located on its 130-54 138kV Transmission Line (130-54) which spans from Newlinville Substation to Cliffs Steel Substation.

PECO avers that five existing structures on the 130-54 transmission line have reached the end of their reliable life. The structures are approximately 54 years in age and have an anticipated service life of approximately 50 years. PECO further avers that the structures are comprised of wood poles which have significant rot and are structurally at the end of life. The last inspection on the 130-54 line was performed in 2018 when the line and structures were found to be in poor condition. A 2021 walkdown for the project identified that both cross arms on one structure had failed. The cross arms were reinforced with braces and the line was returned to service. Application ¶9.

PECO states that replacing the transmission line structures (Proposed Project) consists of removing the five existing wood pole structures and installing five new steel pole structures. The new structures will be located approximately 20 feet to 50 feet north of the existing structures and will range from approximately 63 feet in height to 125 feet in height. PECO further states that the existing structures to be removed range from approximately 75 feet in height to 85 feet in height. Lastly, PECO states that the Proposed Project will be constructed on approximately 0.66 miles of existing right-of-way that is approximately 200 feet in width. Application ¶¶8-9 and Attachment 2, Section 6.

PECO submits that the Proposed Project will be designed, constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that meets or exceeds the requirements specified in the National Electrical Safety Code, Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety standards, and all applicable legal requirements. Application ¶14.

PECO states that the total estimated cost for the Proposed Project is approximately

\$2.5 million and that all costs will be paid for by PECO. Construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to commence April 25, 2022, with a proposed in-service date of May 27, 2022. Application ¶¶11-12 and Attachment 2, Section 11.

Section 57.72 authorizes the abbreviated LON siting application process in lieu of an application for the following:

- (i) An HV line which is proposed to be located entirely on an existing Transmission line right-of-way, so long as the size, character, design, or configuration of the proposed HV line does not substantially alter the right-of-way.
- (ii) An HV line which is proposed to be located entirely within a public road.
- (iii) An HV line which is proposed to be located entirely within applicant's existing transmission line right-of-way and the property of the sole customer to be served by the line, so long as the size, character, design, or configuration of the proposed HV line does not substantially alter the right-of-way.
- (iv) A line for which the voltage is proposed to be increased above its present levels so long as the size, character, design, or configuration of the proposed HV line does not substantially alter the right-of-way.
- (v) An HV line which is to be reconductored or reconstructed so long as the size, character, design, or configuration of the proposed HV line does not substantially alter the right-of-way.

(vi) An HV line having a proposed route of 2 miles or less.

52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d).

The formal PECO Letter of Notification and manner in which it was filed conforms to the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(vi) because the Proposed Project will remove and replace existing transmission line structures along the 130-54 transmission line which is less than 2 miles in length. Moreover, the Commission has reviewed the filing and does not find it to be inconsistent with the applicable law or Commission policy regarding transmission line siting and, therefore, to be in the public interest.

We also note that our approval of the Letter of Notification does not address the issues of accounting treatment, and cost recovery; **THEREFORE,**

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Letter of Notification filed by the PECO Energy Company, for approval to replace existing transmission line structures in East Fallowfield Township and the City of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, is hereby approved.
2. That upon completion of the subject project, PECO Energy Company shall submit the final project cost to the Commission.

3. That upon completion of Ordering Paragraph 2, this proceeding at Docket No. A-2022-3030419 be closed.

BY THE COMMISSION,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosemary Chiavetta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary

ORDER ADOPTED: April 14, 2022
ORDER ENTERED: April 14, 2022