

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

Public Meeting held August 24, 2023

Commissioners Present:

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairman
Stephen M. DeFrank, Vice Chairman
Ralph V. Yanora
Kathryn L. Zerfuss
John F. Coleman, Jr.

Letter of Notification of Mid-Atlantic Interstate
Transmission, LLC for approval to construct two
115 kV Transmission Line Loops to Cly
Substation in Newberry Township, York County,
Pennsylvania

Docket Number:
A-2023-3041221

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On June 9, 2023, Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC (MAIT), Utility Code 1117780, filed a Letter of Notification pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i) & (vi) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's (Commission) transmission line siting regulation. For the reasons expressed in this Order, the Letter of Notification is approved.

Copies of the Letter of Notification 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, York County Commissioners, Newberry Township, *et al.* No protests were filed. No hearings were held.

MAIT requests approval to construct two 115 kV transmission line loops to Cly Substation in Newberry Township, York County, Pennsylvania. The lines to be looped into the existing Cly Substation total approximately 0.3 miles in length and consist of the Middletown Junction – Roundtop 115 kV 975 Transmission Line and the Middletown Junction – Smith Street 115 kV 978 Transmission Line. MAIT submits that upon completion of the proposed project the Middletown Junction – Round Top line will become the Cly – Middletown Junction No. 1 115 kV Transmission Line and the Cly – Round Top 115 kV Transmission Line. Additionally, upon completion the Middletown Junction – Smith Street transmission line will become the Cly – Middletown Junction No. 2 115 kV Transmission Line and the Cly – Smith Street 115 kV Transmission Line. Finally, MAIT submits that to accommodate the project MAIT will remove and replace one structure on the Jackson – Three Mile Island 230 kV Transmission Line. Application ¶¶7-8.

MAIT states that the transmission line loops to Cly Substation are needed to provide increased reliability to customers, reduce potential load loss during unplanned interruptions, and reduce exposure to the load during breaker maintenance. Application ¶13.

MAIT submits that the Cly Substation is presently constructed in a straight bus configuration and that one distribution transformer is connected to the bus. MAIT also submits that in the current straight bus configuration, a faulted or failed bus would result in an outage of the transformer and the connected transmission source. An outage of all components connected to the bus disrupts the network path reinforcing the electric service

to customers. MAIT also submits that Cly Substation presently serves approximately 4,814 customers including 28 critical customers and that an outage would impact all of these customers. Application ¶19.

MAIT avers that to address this issue, it is expanding the existing Cly Substation to a five-breaker ring-bus configuration and looping the Middletown Junction – Roundtop and Middletown Junction – Smith Street transmission lines. MAIT also avers that upon completion of the project each transformer and transmission line at the substation will have its own position in the ring-bus and that a stuck breaker will never result in an outage of more than two components within the ring. Finally, MAIT avers that the Cly Substation Project was presented at the PJM Interconnection, LLC, Regional Transmission Expansion Plan committee in July 2018 and August 2018 and subsequently assigned supplemental project number s1727. Application ¶¶6, 16-17, 22.

MAIT states that it considered two alternative solutions, a double-breaker scheme, or a breaker-and-a-half scheme. MAIT states that the breaker-and-a-half scheme and double-breaker scheme are more expensive than the ring bus and are not necessary due to the number of elements connected to the Cly Substation bus. Accordingly, MAIT states that the two alternatives were rejected for the ring-bus configuration which addresses the technical requirements of the project in a cost-effective manner. Application ¶¶26-28.

MAIT states that to accommodate the project it will remove a total of three existing structures and install six new transmission structures. MAIT also states that one of the existing nearby structures to be removed is approximately 70 feet-in- height and that the new steel and wood pole structures will range from approximately 61 feet-in- height to approximately 103 feet-in-height. MAIT further states that the Cly Substation Project has been designed and will be built within a 100-foot-wide existing right-of-way and on property owned by Metropolitan-Edison Company (Met-Ed), Utility Code 110300, which is

the FirstEnergy electric distribution company serving the area. Application ¶¶6-9.

MAIT states that the estimated distribution reliability impact for Met-Ed that would result from the Cly Substation Project is a CAIDI, SAIDI, and SAIFI avoided on otherwise benchmark performance of approximately 0.9 minutes, 1.521 minutes, and 0.00845, respectively. Application ¶20.

MAIT asserts that the Summit Substation Project will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that meets or surpasses all applicable MAIT and National Electrical Safety Code minimum standards and all applicable legal requirements. Application ¶12.

MAIT states that the total estimated cost for the Cly Substation Project is approximately \$942,000 and will be paid for by MAIT. MAIT further states that the estimated cost for the substation work associated with the project is approximately \$11.35 million. Construction of the Cly Substation Project is anticipated to commence in September 2023 with a proposed in-service date of December 2024. Application ¶¶32-33 and MAIT Data Request Response No. 3.

Section 57.72 authorizes the abbreviated Letter of Notification 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 recondotored 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).

We agree with MAIT that the formal MAIT Letter of Notification and manner in which it was filed conforms to the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i) & (vi) because the Cly Substation Project constructs two 115 kV transmission line loops in such a manner that the existing right-of-way is not substantially altered and because the proposed transmission line loops are less than two 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 of Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC for approval to construct two 115 kV transmission line loops to Cly Substation in Newberry Township, York County, Pennsylvania, is hereby approved.

2. That upon completion of the subject project, Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC shall file the final project cost with the Commission.

3. That upon completion of Ordering Paragraph 2, this proceeding at Docket No. A-2023-3041221 be closed.

BY THE COMMISSION,



Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary

ORDER ADOPTED: August 24, 2023

ORDER ENTERED: August 24, 2023