

**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 the
Hunterstown – Lincoln 115 kV Transmission
Line Loop located in Straban Township, Adams
County, Pennsylvania

Docket Number:
A-2023-3041452

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On June 23, 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, Adams County Commissioners, Straban Township, *et al.* No protests were filed. No hearings were held.

MAIT requests approval to construct the Hunterstown – Lincoln 115 kV Transmission Line Loop located in Straban Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania. The loop extends approximately 0.09 miles and connects the Hunterstown – Lincoln line to MAIT’s proposed Riley Substation. Upon completion of the subject project, the Hunterstown Lincoln transmission line will become the Hunterstown – Riley 115 kV Transmission Line and the Lincoln – Riley 115 kV Transmission Line. Application ¶7.

MAIT submits that the construction of the Hunterstown – Lincoln Loop is necessary to provide 115 kV service to a new solar photovoltaic generating plant proposed by Adams Solar, LLC. MAIT also submits that the new generating plant will have a PJM Interconnection, LLC recognized capacity of 53.6 MW. Lastly, MAIT submits that PJM assigned construction of the Hunterstown - Lincoln Loop Project and the associated work network upgrade identification numbers n6255 and n6257. Application ¶¶6, 15 and MAIT Data Request Response No. 1.

MAIT avers that the new 115 kV transmission line loop will be supported on two new wood pole transmission structures. MAIT also avers that the new structures will be approximately 70 feet in height and that the new structures are approximately 10 feet in height taller than adjacent existing structures. MAIT further avers that the Hunterstown – Lincoln Loop will be constructed entirely within existing right-of-way. Finally, MAIT avers that the existing easement agreement allows for the construction of the two new

transmission line structures and that no additional easements are needed. Application ¶¶8-9, 11.

MAIT asserts that the Hunterstown – Lincoln Loop 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 ¶14.

MAIT states that the total estimated cost for the Hunterstown – Lincoln transmission loop is approximately \$658,000 and that all costs will be paid for by Adams Solar. Finally, MAIT states that construction of the project is anticipated to commence in October 2023 with a proposed in-service date of November 2023. Application¶¶ 18-19.

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 reconducted 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) and (vi) because the Hunterstown - Lincoln Loop Project constructs the Hunterstown – Lincoln 115 kV Transmission Line Loop in such a manner that it does not substantially alter the existing right-of-way and because the transmission line loop is 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 filed by Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC for approval to construct the Hunterstown – Lincoln 115 kV Transmission Line Loop,

located in Straban Township, Adams 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-2023-3041452 be closed.

BY THE COMMISSION,

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

Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary

ORDER ADOPTED: August 24, 2023

ORDER ENTERED: August 24, 2023