

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

Public Meeting held November 9, 2023

Commissioners Present:

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman
Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair
Ralph V. Yanora
Kathryn L. Zerfuss
John F. Coleman, Jr.

Letter of Notification of PECO Energy Company
for approval to Reconductor a Section of the
Croydon – Burlington 220-30 230 kV
Transmission Line located in Bristol Township,
Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Docket Number:
A-2023-3040353

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 3, 2023, PECO Energy Company (PECO), Utility Code 110550, filed a Letter of Notification pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i), (v), & (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, Bucks County Commissioners, Bristol Township, *et al.* No protests were filed. No hearings were held.

PECO requests approval to reductor a section of the Croydon – Burlington 220-30 230 kV Transmission Line in Bristol Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The section to be reducted spans approximately 0.8 miles in length from existing PECO Structure 1-9 to Croydon Substation. Application ¶16.

PECO states that reductoring the section of the Croydon – Burlington line is necessary to resolve a thermal overload on the transmission line for a contingency scenario identified under NERC standard TPL-001-4. PECO states that PJM Interconnection, LLC identified the thermal overload for the loss of various system elements and that PJM directed PECO to reductor the subject section of the 220-30 line. Finally, PECO states that the section of the 220-30 transmission line to be replaced is a conductor with lower thermal capacity than the rest of the transmission line. Application, Attachment 2, Sections 4 & 17 and PECO Data Request Response No. 2.

PECO submits that reductoring the Croydon – Burlington line will address the thermal loading violation identified in PJM’s 2026 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan Summer evaluation and the 2022 Generation Deactivation Study due to the announced deactivation of Pedricktown Cogeneration Plant and Newark Bay Cogeneration Plant. Finally, PECO submits that the 220-30 reductor project was presented at the PJM Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee meeting in October 2021 and November 2021 and subsequently assigned baseline project number b3335. Application, Attachment 2, Sections 8 & 17.

PECO states that to address this issue it will remove the section of existing conductor and replace it with a new conductor with greater capacity. Additionally, PECO states that the new conductors will be supported from the existing transmission structures and that no new structures will be installed. PECO also states that the 220-30 Project has been designed and will be built entirely within the 300-foot-wide existing right-of-way of the Croydon – Burlington transmission line and that no new right-of-way is needed. Application ¶¶9-10 and Attachment 2, footnote 4.

PECO asserts that the 220-30 Project will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that meets or surpasses all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Electrical Safety Code minimum standards and all applicable legal requirements. Application ¶14.

PECO states that the total estimated cost for the 220-30 Project is approximately \$1.3 million and will be paid for by PECO. Construction of the project is anticipated to commence in November 2023 with a proposed in-service date of December 2023. Application ¶¶11-12.

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 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).

We agree with PECO that 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)(i) & (v) because the 220-30 Project reconductors a section of the Croydon – Burlington transmission line which will remain entirely on existing right-of-way and because the line will be reconductored in such a way that it does not substantially alter the right-of-way. Additionally, the project also conforms with 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(vi) because the section of line to be reconductored 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 PECO Energy Company for approval to reconductor a section of the Croydon – Burlington 220-30 230 kV Transmission Line located in Bristol Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, is hereby approved.

2. That upon completion of the subject project, PECO Energy Company shall file the final project cost with the Commission.

3. That upon completion of Ordering Paragraph 2, this proceeding at Docket No. A-2023-3040353 be closed.

BY THE COMMISSION,



Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary

ORDER ADOPTED: November 9, 2023

ORDER ENTERED: November 9, 2023