

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

Public Meeting held December 7, 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 Duquesne Light  
Company for Approval to Reconfigure the  
Existing Cheswick – Plum 138 kV Transmission  
Line in Plum Borough, Allegheny County,  
Pennsylvania

Docket Number:  
A-2023-3042138

**ORDER**

**BY THE COMMISSION:**

On August 10, 2023, Duquesne Light Company (Duquesne Light), Utility Code 110150, filed a Letter of Notification pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i) 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, Allegheny County Commissioners, Borough of Plum, *et al.* No protests were filed. No hearings were held.

Duquesne Light requests approval to reconfigure the existing Cheswick – Plum 138 kV transmission line in Plum Borough, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Duquesne Light states that the project includes reconfiguring four existing Duquesne Light transmission structures to establish interconnection points between Duquesne Light and FirstEnergy transmission lines. Duquesne Light further states that the project also includes reconductoring approximately three miles of the Cheswick – Plum 138 kV Transmission Line from the new point of interconnection to Duquesne Light’s Plum Substation. Finally, Duquesne Light states that upon completion of the project the Cheswick – Plum and Springdale – Yukon lines will become the Cheswick – Yukon 138 kV Transmission Line and the Plum – Springdale 138 kV Transmission Line. Application ¶¶18, 28-29.

Duquesne Light submits that reconfiguring the 138 kV transmission line is needed to alleviate multiple thermal violations. Duquesne Light submits that on July 14, 2021, GenOn Holdings, LLC submitted a deactivation notice to PJM Interconnection, LLC to deactivate the Cheswick Generating Station. Duquesne Light also submits that the deactivation of the Cheswick Generating Station in the northeast portion of the Duquesne Light system resulted in increased power flows from the southern tie lines into the southern and central portions of the Duquesne Light system. Duquesne Light submits that PJM identified a number of reliability criteria violations under NERC standard TPL-001-4 for planning scenarios P3 and P6 involving multiple contingencies. Duquesne Light further submits that the violations stem from the change in power flows occurring due to the retirement of Cheswick. Finally, Duquesne Light submits that for the described contingency scenarios the Collier – Elwyn #1

& #2 138 kV Transmission Line, Forbes – Oakland 138 kV Transmission Line, and Carson – Oakland 138 kV Transmission Line experience thermal violations. Application ¶¶10-11 and Duquesne Light Data Request Response No. 1.

Duquesne Light states that to address these issues it will create a new interconnection point with the FirstEnergy transmission system and reconnector the Cheswick – Plum line to increase its capacity. Duquesne Light also states that interconnecting with FirstEnergy will allow additional power flow into the Duquesne Light system from the northeast and alleviate the potential thermal overloads on the four transmission lines. Duquesne Light further states that the reconductoring will address potential thermal overloads on the Plum-Springdale 138 kV transmission line as a result of the interconnection. Finally, Duquesne Light states that the Transmission Line Relocation Project was presented at the PJM Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee meeting in August 2022 and September 2022 and assigned baseline project number b3717.2. Application Page 1, Footnotes 1 & 2 and Duquesne Light Data Request Response No. 2.

Duquesne Light submits that to facilitate reconfiguration of the Cheswick – Plum line it will replace approximately 3 miles of existing conductor and a total of 29 existing wood pole transmission line structures. Duquesne Light also submits that the 4 poles to be installed for the new interconnection point will be steel monopoles and the remaining 25 poles to support the reconducted line will be wood. Duquesne Light submits that the new structures range from approximately 65 feet-in-height to approximately 75 feet-in-height and that the existing transmission structures to be removed range from approximately 52 feet-in-height to approximately 70 feet-in-height. Finally, Duquesne Light submits that the Transmission Line Reconfiguration Project has been designed and will be built entirely within existing right-of-way or within property owned by Duquesne Light and that the right-of-way is on average 50 feet in width. Application ¶¶18, 25, 27, 36-37, 46, 48.

Duquesne Light asserts that the Transmission Line Reconfiguration Project will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that meets or surpasses all applicable Duquesne Light and National Electrical Safety Code minimum standards and all applicable legal requirements. Application ¶52.

Duquesne Light states that the total estimated cost for the Transmission Line Reconfiguration Project is approximately \$12 million to \$17 million and will be paid for by Duquesne Light. Construction of the project is anticipated to commence in April 2024, with a proposed in-service date of December 2024. Application ¶¶16-17.

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 Duquesne Light that the formal Duquesne Light Letter of Notification and manner in which it was filed conforms to the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i) because the Transmission Line Reconfiguration Project will be constructed entirely within existing right-of-way in a manner such that it does not substantially alter the existing right-of-way. 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.

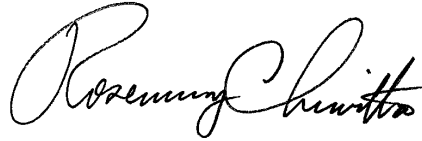
We also note that our approval of the Letter of Notification does not address the issues of accounting treatment, and cost recovery; **THEREFORE,**

**IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That the Letter of Notification of Duquesne Light Company for approval to reconfigure the existing Cheswick - Plum 138 kV Transmission Line in Plum Borough, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, is hereby approved.
  
2. That upon completion of the subject project, Duquesne Light Company shall file the final project cost with the Commission.

3. That upon completion of Ordering Paragraph 2, this proceeding at Docket No. A-2023-3042138 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: December 7, 2023

ORDER ENTERED: December 7, 2023