

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation

Public Meeting held June 13, 2024
3037374-OSA
Docket No. A-2022-3037374

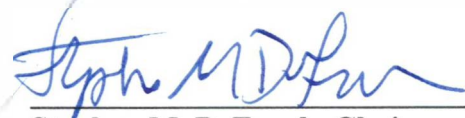
JOINT STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN STEPHEN M. DEFRANK
AND VICE CHAIR KIMBERLY BARROW

Before the Commission is a unique Letter of Notification adjudication that was fully litigated by the Office of Consumer Advocate and PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL). We vote today that the record in this proceeding favors PPL's transmission development application as submitted, instead of the alternatives that the Office of Consumer Advocate argue that PPL should have considered. Yet, we appreciate the engagement of the Office of Consumer Advocate in this technical proceeding which too often is overlooked. Local transmission buildout will continue to be an area of significant importance in the next decade, and willingness to consider alternative approaches and encourage utilities to get the most out of their systems and ratepayers' dollars is a worthwhile endeavor.

To that end, while the record evidence as submitted supports PPL's Letter of Notification, grid enhancing technologies such as dynamic line ratings, advanced conductors, and advanced power flow controls present an opportunity not just to minimize needed infrastructure, but also to expand the benefits of an infrastructure project for the long-term at a low marginal cost impact. We encourage PPL to incorporate grid-enhancing technologies into local projects if it determines that adding them would reduce congestion, increase market efficiency, and ultimately improve the benefit-cost ratio of an infrastructure project.

Additionally, this is the seventh such application involving the CORTEN pack rust issue which also affects much of the rest of PPL's 230 kV system. Just as adding grid-enhancing technologies may maximize the benefit-cost ratio, PPL might also consider holistic planning for the same purpose. Because the pack rust issue is widespread, PPL should consider whether rebuilding the existing network is the most cost-effective way in which to serve the long-run needs of the system, especially in the presence of expected load growth for the first time in decades. This holistic reevaluation is especially important because the pack rust evaluations that PPL performed, and the solutions proposed to address that need, largely pre-dated the forecasts of significant load growth in PPL's system.¹

June 13, 2024



Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman



Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair

¹ <https://www.pjm.com/-/media/committees-groups/committees/teac/2020/20201006/20201006-item-09-ppl-supplemental.ashx>.