



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING  
400 NORTH STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO OUR FILE

May 16, 2025

A-2025-3054570

**TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD**

Application of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for approval to alter the public crossing (DOT 851 862 H) by the installation of a replacement utility pole and transfer of aerial conductors where Mauch Chunk Road crosses, at grade, a single track of Norfolk Southern Railway Company located in the City of Bethlehem, Lehigh County, and Hanover Township, Northampton County.

To Whom It May Concern:

By application filed with the Commission on April 14, 2025, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL) seeks Commission approval to alter the public crossing (DOT 851 862 H) by the installation of a replacement utility pole and transfer of aerial conductors where Mauch Chunk Road crosses, at grade, a single track of Norfolk Southern Railway Company located in the City of Bethlehem, Lehigh County, and Hanover Township, Northampton County.

PPL proposes to install the new replacement utility pole and transfer all existing aerial conductors to the new pole within the joint right-of-way of Mauch Chunk Road and Norfolk Southern Railway Company. The installation will provide a minimum vertical clearance of 35-feet 4-inches to PPL's secondary line as measured from the top of rail. The minimum proposed vertical clearance for all aerial facilities was depicted on the plans as being 24-feet 6-inch as measured from the top of rail.

The Commission hereby establishes its jurisdictional limits at the subject crossing as the area within the confines of the railroad right-of-way and the highway right-of-way.

In its application, PPL states that the proposed installation is necessary to provide adequate, efficient, and reasonable communication facilities and power to the public in Northampton and Lehigh Counties. PPL will be directed to perform the necessary installation, provide for maintenance and protection of highway and pedestrian traffic during installation and accept future maintenance responsibility for the new facilities, at its sole cost and expense. The cost of the project is anticipated to be approximately \$10,000.

All work is to be performed in accordance with the plans entitled: "EXHIBIT A" consisting of one (1) sheet submitted to the Commission with the application.

PPL served a copy of the application and plans on Northampton County, the City of Bethlehem, Norfolk Southern Railway Company, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Level 3 Fiber Optic Communications, XO Fiber Optic Communications, RCN Telecom Services of Pennsylvania, Service Electric Cable TV Inc., and Metropolitan Fiber Systems. All parties of record, with the addition of Hanover Township and Lehigh County, were queried by letter dated April 24, 2025, sent via email as to any objection to the subject application and plans. None of the parties have responded with any objection to the subject application or plans. Hanover Township and Lehigh County will be made a party to the subject proceeding since they were not served a copy of the application by PPL.

The Commission has exclusive jurisdiction in crossing alterations and is the final arbiter of any fees associated with a crossing application. Any conditions, including fees associated with a crossing application, must be approved by the Commission.

Upon full consideration of the matters involved, we find that a hearing is not necessary and that a Secretarial Letter may be issued approving the application.

The Commission issues this Secretarial Letter in accordance with Section 2702 of the Public Utility Code and finds that the alteration of the crossing is necessary and proper for the service, accommodation, convenience, or safety of the public.

The application of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation is approved as herein directed:

1. The caption of the subject proceeding is hereby revised as shown herein.
2. Hanover Township and Lehigh County be made a party hereto.
3. The public crossing (DOT 851 862 H) where Mauch Chunk Road crosses, at grade, a single track of Norfolk Southern Railway Company in the City of Bethlehem, Lehigh County, and Hanover Township, Northampton County, be altered generally in accordance with the installation plans entitled: "EXHIBIT A" consisting of one (1) sheet provided to the Commission on April 14, 2025; which plans are made part hereof and are hereby approved except insofar as they may relate to the division of work, deletion of work, or the allocation of costs and expenses incident to the installation of the project.
4. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and perform all work necessary to alter the crossing by the installation of a replacement utility pole and transfer of aerial conductors within the joint right-of-way of the highway where Mauch Chunk Road crosses, at grade, a single track of Norfolk Southern Railway Company; all in accordance with the approved plans and this Secretarial Letter.
5. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and perform all work necessary to establish and maintain any detours or traffic controls that may be required to properly and safely accommodate highway and pedestrian traffic during the time the crossing is being altered.

6. Any relocation of, changes in and/or removal of any adjacent structures, equipment or other facilities of any non-carrier public utility company or municipal authority, other than PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, which may be required as incidental to the alteration of the crossing, be made by said public utility company or municipal authority at its initial cost, and in such a manner as will not interfere with the alteration of the crossing; and such relocated or altered facilities thereafter be maintained by said public utility company or municipal authority, at its sole cost and expense.

7. Norfolk Southern Railway Company, at the sole cost and expense of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, furnish all material and perform all work relating to its facilities which may be required as incidental to the performance of the proposed work and furnish any watchmen, flagmen, inspectors and/or engineering services that may be deemed necessary to protect the railroad's operations or facilities during the time the facilities are being installed.

8. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and perform all work necessary to complete the remainder of the project, and any other ancillary features of the project, generally in accordance with the approved plans and this Secretarial Letter.

9. The alteration of the crossing be completed on or before May 31, 2026, and that on or before said date PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, report in writing the date of actual completion of the work to this Commission and certify to the parties of record and this Commission that the work has been satisfactorily completed in accordance with the approved plans and this Secretarial Letter.

10. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, at its sole cost and expense, pay all compensation for damages, if any, due to owners of property taken, injured, or destroyed by reason of the alteration of the crossing in accordance with this Secretarial Letter.

11. All parties involved herein cooperate fully with each other so that during the time the work is being performed, vehicular, pedestrian and railroad traffic will not be endangered or unnecessarily inconvenienced, and so that the requirements of each of the parties will be provided for and accommodated insofar as possible.

12. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation cooperate with the non-carrier utilities involved, so that during the alteration of the involved crossing, the facilities of the non-carrier utilities will not be endangered or unnecessarily interrupted.

13. PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, at least seven (7) days prior to the start of work, notify all parties of record of the actual date on which work will begin.

14. Upon completion of the alteration of the crossing, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and perform all work necessary thereafter to maintain the new replacement utility pole and transferred aerial conductors and any ancillary facilities installed in accordance with the approved plans and this Secretarial Letter.

15. Upon completion of the alteration of the crossing, Norfolk Southern Railway Company, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and perform all work necessary thereafter to maintain its railroad facilities at the subject crossing, including the warning devices and all appurtenant equipment, and maintain at all times in a safe, smooth and satisfactory condition the concrete panel high-type crossing surface; all in accordance with Part 8 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter, and provide the City of Bethlehem and Hanover Township at least ten (10) business days advance notice when performing any work as directed by this paragraph that may affect their facilities.

16. Upon completion of the alteration of the crossing, the City of Bethlehem, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and perform all work necessary thereafter to maintain the highway approach roadway of the subject crossing up to the concrete panel high-type crossing surface and in addition, maintain the grade crossing advance warning signs, pavement markings, and stop lines, if required; all in accordance with Part 8 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and this Secretarial Letter, and provide Norfolk Southern Railway Company and Hanover Township at least ten (10) business days advance notice when performing any work as directed by this paragraph that may affect their facilities.

17. Upon completion of the work herein directed, and upon written request from any party of record, this proceeding be scheduled for a hearing at a time and place to be determined by the Commission, for the purpose of taking testimony upon the final allocation of any remaining costs incurred by the non-carrier utility companies and other matters relevant to this proceeding.

The Parties are reminded that failure to comply with this or any Order or Secretarial Letter in this proceeding may result in an enforcement action seeking civil penalties and/or other sanctions pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. § 3301.

All formal documents must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission. Documents must be eFiled, mailed or hand delivered. All filings should be addressed to the Secretary, PA Public Utility Commission, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120. The Commission will not accept documents delivered by fax or by e-mail. Parties are encouraged to file formal documents by eFiling with the Secretary of the Commission by opening an eFiling account through the Commission's website (the account is free of charge) and accepting eservice at <https://www.puc.pa.gov/filing-resources/efiling/>.

If your filing contains confidential material, you are required to file by overnight delivery to ensure the timely filing of your submission. There are certain filings that cannot be eFiled, such as filings containing confidential or proprietary material. These must be submitted to the Secretary by overnight delivery, priority, or certified mail to allow tracking of your filing.

If you are dissatisfied with the resolution of this matter, you may, as set forth in 52 Pa. Code §§ 1.31 and 5.44, file a Petition for Reconsideration from Staff Action (Petition) with the Commission within twenty (20) days of the date of this letter. The Petition shall be eFiled with the Secretary of the Commission or sent to: Secretary, PA Public Utility Commission, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, and must be filed within twenty (20) days, or if no timely request is made, the action will be deemed to be a final action of the Commission.

The Petition MUST include: (1) a written statement (divided into numbered paragraphs) outlining the reasons for the request; (2) the case docket number (it is provided for you at the top right-hand corner of this letter); (3) the party on whose behalf the petition is made; (4) a Certificate of Service on the other parties of record; and (5) a Verification with original signature in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 1.36.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew L. Homsher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Matthew L. Homsher  
Secretary