

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

June 6th, 2025

Re: PUC En Banc Hearing on Interconnection and Tariffs for Large Load Customers

Docket #M-2025-3054271

submitted electronically



To the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Chairman and Commissioners,

Kindly accept this comment on behalf of concerned citizens in North Eastern Pennsylvania. Alliance to Stop the Line is a community action group that is seeking to find an equitable way forward with public utilities and planned development in our area. We are grateful for the opportunity to submit comment on what we feel is a critical issue and appreciate the PUC's consideration in this matter.

First, we wish to emphasize is that above all, we urge the PUC to cautiously and methodically weigh all the angles, impacts on all stakeholders, as well as the pros and cons of the entire energy and data center boom and the inevitable changes that will necessitate a robust and thorough response from the PUC. At this time, many politicians, energy suppliers and transmitters as well as developers speak of the need for expediency in addressing burgeoning utility needs. While we understand the desire for technological progress, we are concerned that in doing so too quickly, this could cause future setbacks and a nearsightedness, potentially harming other stakeholders. It is important to note that much of the call for expediency, and energy usage predictions, seem to be corporately driven, and not necessarily consumer driven. We believe that comprehensive long term and short term feasibility studies should be conducted to this end.

Second, we echo the testimony of Harvard's Ari Peskoe and Eliza Martin's, as they so clearly elucidated the impending increased electric rates for all Pennsylvanians. We have closely researched as well as collaborated with several other states' leadership, experts, consumer watchdog groups, and it remains abundantly clear that the current lack of tariff structure will ultimately burden our citizens with unwanted socialized costs for projects by large load customers; these projects rarely if ever benefit the average individual and small business rate payers directly.

Third, we agree with and call for the same measures outlined by testimony from Darryl Lawrence, Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate, and Allison Kaster, Chief Prosecutor. We petition for separate and larger rate classes for large load customers. We support cash collateral, exit fees, load shedding requirements during grid stress/peak energy demand and

minimum contractual terms. The Alliance asks the PUC to set in place requirements for large load customers to give regular demand forecasts, as well as safeties in place to ensure there is little to no cost shifting to co location sites in order for large load customers to evade peak period demand charges.

As our area is impacted currently and will continue to be affected by the onslaught of large load customers and infrastructure build out, we are acutely aware of what is on the line for our citizens. North Eastern PA has one of the first nuclear plants that is slated to power data centers. We are at the intersection of I-80 & I-81, which makes our region a hub of commerce. These factors make our area a location some developers and power companies/transmitters have begun to target. But the cost of development and transmission here is exceptionally high for we the citizens and small businesses, for our health, for our peace, our wallets, our environment and our way of life.

As you are aware, large load customers are significant consumers of power and water. Our local water resources will be greatly taxed by this, and already are by Amazon Web Services located near the Talen Susquehanna Nuclear Power plant in Berwick. AWS located here is the largest data center to date in Pennsylvania, consuming 48 GW of power. This operation and several that are in current building, permit, or planning stages within a 12 mile region, will continue taking more from our beautiful Susquehanna River, and directly impacting the Black Creek (recently remediated and teeming with life once again) and Nescopeck Creek which are part of the Susquehanna River Watershed. The associated transmission lines that accompany them will be a never ending series of projects that leave us very concerned. Gone will be the idyllic valleys and farmlands of our beautiful and historic state. Rather, a technology that has a dubious future (as more advanced and efficient powering and transmission technologies will inevitably emerge) could leave rate payers with stranded costs, and obtrusive, permanent defacing of our air, land and water, if not properly regulated.

Beyond the tremendous use of power and water, the infrastructure build out that accompanies this, is particularly aggressive and intrusive. It is upon the PUC to act responsibly and fairly in this matter and follow the lead of other states that have stood by their citizens and imposed tariffs and detailed regulations on large load customers. We support progress and innovation in our Commonwealth, and entrust the PUC to protect ratepayers as equally as large load customers are considered.

Respectfully submitted, Annie Vinatieri on behalf of
Alliance to Stop the Line
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