

Morgan Lewis

Kenneth M. Kulak

Partner

+1.215.963.5384

ken.kulak@morganlewis.com

July 29, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**Re: Application of PECO Energy Company Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71 *et seq.* for Approval of the Siting and Construction of the Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project Located in Peach Bottom Township, York County, Pennsylvania and Petition for Waiver of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(c)(10)
Docket Nos. A-2024-3051467 & P-2025-3053944**

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned proceeding are PECO Energy Company's Responses to the Data Requests of the Bureau of Technical Utility Services, Question Nos. A-6 to A-15.

As indicated on the enclosed Certificate of Service, copies have been served upon all parties of record.

If you have any questions, please call me directly at 215.963.5384.

Very truly yours,



Kenneth M. Kulak

KMK/ap

Enclosure

c: Per Certificate of Service (w/encls.)

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

2222 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
United States

T +1.215.963.5000
F +1.215.963.5001

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Application of PECO Energy Company :
Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71 et :
seq. for Approval of the Siting and : **Docket Nos. A-2024-3051467**
Construction of the Brandon Shores : **P-2025-3053944**
Retirement Mitigation Project Located in :
Peach Bottom Township, York County, :
Pennsylvania and Petition for Waiver of 52 :
Pa. Code § 57.72(c)(10) :

**RESPONSE OF PECO ENERGY COMPANY
TO DATA REQUESTS OF THE BUREAU OF TECHNICAL UTILITY SERVICES**

TUS-A-6:

Reference the Application, Paragraph 11. Please state the specific requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 69.3105 from which PECO is seek a waiver and provide a detailed explanation as to why.

RESPONSE:

In PECO’s Application, PECO requested “waiver of the requirements in 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(c)(10) to provide alternative routes and of the Commission’s interim guidelines at 52 Pa. Code § 69.3105 *to the extent necessary.*” See Application at 2 (emphasis added). The specific requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 69.3105 from which PECO sought a waiver, to the extent necessary, were those in section 69.3105(3) regarding the amount of information required to be provided in describing “reasonable alternative routes.”¹ 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(e) authorizes the Commission to waive those requirements.

PECO requested waiver of these requirements because:

“much of the Project entails enhancing the connections between the substations near the Peach Bottom Nuclear Generation Station, and the rest of the Project uses existing PECO transmission right-of-way west and south

¹ “In providing information regarding the reasonable alternative routes, the utility actively considered in its final phase of the route selection process, and the relative merits of each, in accordance with § 57.72(c)(10), the applicant should include the following information:

- (i) The environmental, historical, cultural and aesthetic considerations of each route.
- (ii) The proximity of these alternative routes to residential and nonresidential structures.
- (iii) The applicant’s consideration of relevant existing rights of way.
- (iv) The comparative construction costs associated with each route.” 52 Pa. Code § 69.3105(3).

towards the Pennsylvania and Maryland border. Any alternative routes would have considerably more significant environmental, community, and landowner impacts and require significant greenfield construction.”

Id. PECO’s request was for a limited waiver, only to the extent necessary, as PECO provided “considerable analysis and explanation as to why there are no reasonable alternative routes for the proposed Project.” *Id.* PECO did not propose “specific alternative routes to the proposed lines” because “the lack of practicable alternatives is evident due to the many environmental and social constraints around the Project area.” *Id.* at 23-24. Instead, “PECO conducted a high-level desktop evaluation of conceptual ‘alternative corridors’ that indicated there are no better practicable alternatives to the transmission routes proposed in the Project.”² *Id.* PECO provided this evaluation as Attachment 10 to the Application.

In PECO Statement No. 3, PECO Witness Mr. Barry Baker described Attachment 10 and “explain[ed] why any project siting within such alternative corridors would not be reasonable.” *Id.* at 24. For example, Mr. Baker explained that the “proposed routes primarily utilize pathways that have largely already been developed by PECO and/or other utilities and generating companies for transmission purposes” and would mostly be sited within existing rights-of-way and fee-owned utility corridors. PECO Statement No. 3 at 15. He further explained that, in contrast, “[a]ny alternative route would create significantly more impacts [than the proposed routes] and would not provide any material benefits.” *Id.* The impacts that would be present in the alternative corridors examined by Mr. Baker include social, environmental, and engineering constraints described in pages 9 through 15. *See also* Attachment 10.

Notwithstanding the detailed evaluation of alternative corridors provided as Attachment 10, which may provide sufficient information to meet the statutory requirements, PECO requested waiver of the reasonable alternative routes requirements “[t]o the extent the Commission determines that the evaluation PECO performed does not fully meet the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(c)(10).” *Id.* PECO requested waiver for the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 69.3105, to the extent necessary, for the same reason.

Pages 23 through 37 of the Application explain the legal basis for the requested waiver and why waiver would be consistent with the Commission’s decision in other transmission siting proceedings. As the Application notes, a party is allowed to petition for waiver of the Commission’s regulations under 52 Pa. Code § 5.43 of the Commission’s regulations and “[p]ursuant to Section 57.72(e) of the Commission’s regulations, one or more of the Commission’s siting requirements may be waived.” Application at 24. Regarding the specific waiver requested by PECO, the Application explains that:

“[t]he Commission has granted waiver of this requirement to provide alternative routes in prior applications entirely within existing utility rights-of-way. *See, e.g., PPL Electric Utility Co., Docket No. A-2022-3030969*

² In the Application, PECO also explained that the high-level desktop evaluation “achieves the purpose of the alternative route proposal requirement in 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(c)(10), and there would be no benefit in requiring PECO to propose and analyze specific routes within the corridors analyzed here.” Application at 28.

(Dec. 23, 2022); *PPL Electric Utilities Co.*, Docket No. A-2019-3007945 (July 11, 2019).”

Application at 24. In addition:

“[t]he Commission has further recognized that waiver of certain of the Commission’s regulations governing review and approval of the siting and construction of high-voltage electric transmission lines set forth at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71 et seq. is appropriate if a proposed transmission project meets one or more of the criteria for a Letter of Notification under 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1) on a segment-by-segment basis. The Commission has considered single transmission lines as composed of discrete segments that each individually can satisfy the criteria in Section 57.72(d)(1) even where the entire transmission line assessed on the basis of its total distance may not meet the criteria in Section 57.72(d)(1).”

Id. at 29-30. In the Application, PECO cited multiple examples where the Commission granted a requested waiver of certain provisions of the Commission’s siting regulations at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71 et seq. on a segment-by-segment basis. *See* Application at 30-32.³ As PECO explained in the Application, the Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project (“Brandon Shores Project”) “can be divided into eight component transmission segments, each of which is individually appropriate for waiver of the requirement for a full alternative route analysis under 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(c)(10).” Application at 32. Each segment is appropriate for waiver because the segment is “entirely within PECO’s existing right-of-way and will not substantially alter the right-of-way,” and/or “less than two miles.” Application at 33 to 37.⁴

PECO notes that on January 14, 2025, Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge Pell granted PECO waiver “of the requirements in 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(c)(10) to provide alternative routes and of the Commission’s interim guidelines at 52 Pa. Code § 69.3105.” *See* Prehearing Order #1, Ordering Paragraph 4, Docket No. A-2024-3051463 (2025).

TUS-A-7:

Reference the Application, Paragraph 17. Please provide the date of the TEAC meeting the subject project was presented at and the corresponding PJM baseline project number(s) associated with the Siting Application

³ *See, e.g.*, Application at 30 (“For example, in *PPL Electric Utilities Co.*, Docket No. P-2016-2545583 (Aug. 11, 2016) the Commission granted a requested waiver of certain provisions of the Commission’s siting regulations at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71 et seq. on a segment-by-segment basis. The Commission noted that the proposed project did not meet the ‘strict definition of any of the situations’ in 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d) but found that waiver of the strict application of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d) was appropriate and that the project’s individual parts satisfied the criteria in 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1).”).

⁴ PECO also noted contributing factors such as where new segments will have a minimal viewshed impact or utilize an existing transmission corridor.

RESPONSE:

Below is a table listing the PJM baseline project numbers for the Brandon Shores Project along with the dates that the transmission activities were initially and last presented to the TEAC

Upgrade Id	Description	Initial TEAC Date	Latest TEAC Date
b3780.1	Peach Bottom North upgrades – substation work Add 3x 500 kV breakers to form a breaker-and-a-half bay.	6/6/2023	6/6/2023
b3780.14	Reconfigure Cooper transmission feeds by establishing new Cooper-North Delta 230 kV line and rerouting existing transmissions lines by Cooper.	12/5/2023	1/9/2024
b3780.15	Cut in 5012 Peach Bottom-Conastone 500 kV line into North Delta 500/230 kV substation by rebuilding 5012 between new terminal at Peach Bottom South and North Delta on single circuit structures and terminating at North Delta.	12/5/2023	1/9/2024
b3780.2	Peach Bottom to Graceton (PECO) – New 500 kV transmission line New rating: 4503 MVA SN/ 5022 MVA SE	6/6/2023	6/6/2023

TUS-A-8:

Reference the Application, Paragraph 18. Please provide a detailed explanation as to how the subject project will resolve the problem described.

RESPONSE:

In PECO’s Application, PECO explained that:

“On April 6, 2023, Talen, the current operator of Brandon Shores, notified PJM of the planned deactivation of the 1,273 MW (summer rating) coal-fired Units 1 and 2 of Brandon Shores on June 1, 2025.”

Application at 9. As a result of this planned deactivation:

“PJM analyzed the effects of the planned deactivation and determined that these retirements would have multiple widespread reliability impacts. PJM identified substantial N-1, N-1-1, load deliverability, and voltage deviation violations on transmission facilities due to the Brandon Shores’ deactivation in various transmission owners’ service territory in the Mid- Atlantic

region, including PECO and several other Exelon Operating Companies, as well as thermal violations affecting several other transmission owners. PJM identified widespread voltage violations due to Brandon Shores deactivations in PECO, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (“BGE”), Potomac Electric Power Company (“Pepco”), Dominion Energy, First Energy (Allegheny Energy or “APS”), Metropolitan Edison, and PPL Electric Utilities Corp. service territories for N-1 and N-1-1 outages. PJM also identified multiple 115 kV, 138 kV, 230 kV, and 500/230 kV thermal overloads on transmission facilities in BGE, APS, and Pepco due to the deactivation of Brandon Shores units.”

Id. at 9-10; *see also* PECO Statement No. 2 and Attachment 2. As explained in the Application at page 10, “PJM identified the need to develop Immediate-need reliability projects” as a result of PJM’s analysis which found “the potential for voltage collapse on the grid in Baltimore and surrounding areas, including southeastern Pennsylvania.” In response, “PECO, in coordination with BGE and Pepco, developed proposals to address the reliability issues resulting from the Brandon Shores deactivation in collaboration with PJM.” *Id.* at 11.

As PECO explained in the Application:

“PECO’s Project will extend from the Pennsylvania and Maryland border to the Peach Bottom North substation, reinforcing the transfer of power from east of the Peach Bottom Nuclear Generation Station to the Graceton Substation area in Maryland and interconnecting new and upgraded 500 kV transmission along this route. The Project will support the mitigation of thermal and voltage issues in the Mid-Atlantic region of the PJM footprint and increase transmission capacity within PECO’s territory. The Project will also support the mitigation of the reliability concerns identified in the 2022 RTEP Window 3 process.”

Attachment 2 at 7; *see also* Application at 13. Furthermore, as PECO explained in the Application at pages 12 to 13, the “Project, in addition to separate projects by other public utilities designated by PJM, will also mitigate the potential need for PJM to request Talen to continue to operate the Brandon Shore units beyond” the term of its Reliability-Must-Run (“RMR”) arrangement “and prevent Pennsylvania customers from having to pay additional costs for a potentially extended RMR arrangement for Brandon Shores.”⁵

The Brandon Shores Project is critical to address the reliability concerns identified by PJM. As explained in PECO Statement No. 2 at pages 14-15:

⁵ As PECO explained in the response to the Technical Utility Services’ data request TUS-A-1, and in a letter to the Technical Utility Services dated June 25, 2025, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued an order on May 1, 2025, approving a contested settlement related to Talen Energy Corporation’s Continuing Operations Rate Schedule filed with FERC in Docket No. ER24-1790. The Settlement provides for fixed-cost charges effective June 1, 2025, for a term ending May 31, 2029.

“[i]f the Project is not constructed or construction is delayed, the widespread reliability violations identified by PJM will not be fully mitigated. Specifically, if the Project is not constructed, PECO will be in violation of the PJM reliability criteria tests which identified the overloads and other reliability issues that led to the proposed Project. For example, if the Project is not completed and the specific outage events identified in the analyses were to occur, in the worst case, catastrophic failure of various transmission facilities could occur and/or customer load would be dropped to prevent such failures. This could result in customers losing power and being without power for significant durations until the facilities were repaired. The severity of these issues would not only impact customers in PECO’s service territory, but based on the results identified by PJM, these issues could impact customers across the mid-Atlantic and service territories of BGE, Pepco, Dominion Energy, and parts of the FirstEnergy Corporation service territory. Furthermore, if the Project is not constructed or is delayed, PJM may determine a need to extend the duration that the Brandon Shores generators must remain operation so that PJM can continue to reliably operate the transmission system. This in turn could lead to PJM requesting an extension of the Brandon Shores RMR Agreement, increasing the costs borne by certain Pennsylvania ratepayers.”

TUS-A-9:

Reference the Application, Paragraph 19. Please explain whether the subject project is part of PECO’s 2022 RTEP Reliability Window 3 project at Docket No. A-2024-3051463. If so, please provide a detailed explanation as to how the projects are interrelated.

RESPONSE:

No, the Brandon Shores Project is separate from the PJM 2022 Reliability Window # 3 Project (“PJM22RW3 Project”). However, PECO notes that the two projects are similar as PECO will construct transmission facilities in the same general location at approximately the same time. Moreover, as explained in the Application, the “Project will also support the mitigation of the reliability concerns identified in the 2022 RTEP Window 3 process.” Application at 13.⁶

Although the projects are primarily driven by different needs and involve different physical facilities, the two projects are interrelated. As PECO stated in the Application:

“In May 2023, while PECO was determining the scope of work to mitigate the Brandon Shores deactivation reliability issues, PECO was also participating in the 2022 RTEP Window 3 process to develop proposals primarily aimed at addressing the reliability issues stemming from the

⁶ See also PJM22RW3 Application, Attachment 2 at fn 5 explaining that the PJM22RW3 Project incorporated the Brandon Shores Project in its design to holistically address reliability issues “in the PECO territory associated with the generator retirements in the BGE service territory as well as the data center load growth in Virginia and Maryland.”

significant load growth in the northern Virginia area. PECO recognized that its 2022 RTEP Window 3 proposals would provide a holistic solution to not only address the data center load growth, but that elements of the proposals could also be leveraged to mitigate the reliability issues associated with the loss of generation from the Brandon Shores deactivation. Thus, when PJM determined the projects recommended to address the Brandon Shores deactivation, which in turn became the transmission projects at the heart of PECO's Project, these projects complemented PECO's other planned transmission proposals that were selected through the 2022 RTEP Window 3 and are described in PECO's 2022 RTEP Window 3 application ("2022 RTEP Window 3 Project") that is being concurrently filed with the Commission. As such, PECO's Project and 2022 RTEP Window 3 Project are designed to function in conjunction with each other, and the successful mitigation of the reliability concerns PJM identified from the Brandon Shores deactivation and in the 2022 RTEP Window 3 requires the approval and construction of both the PECO Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project and PECO's 2022 RTEP Window 3 Project."

Attachment 2 at 6-7.

No segment of transmission line proposed for construction is shared by the two projects and each segment is unique. Attachment 20 visually identifies the transmission segments proposed for construction in the Brandon Shores Project pursuant to a color-coding system described in the legend at the bottom left of the maps. Attachment 20 also depicts the proposed transmission segments for the PJM22RW3 Project in grey.

TUS-A-10:

Reference the Application, Paragraph 38. Please explain whether PECO has obtained all of the necessary land rights.

RESPONSE:

PECO is currently in negotiations with Troyer Farms LLC, Grimmell Farms LP, Calpine Mid Merit, LLC, and Constellation Energy Generation, LLC. Transource Pennsylvania, LLC recently purchased a project parcel from Troyer Farms, LLC. PECO intends to open negotiations shortly with Transource Pennsylvania, LLC.

TUS-A-11:

Reference the Application, Paragraph 46. Please provide a copy of the response from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

RESPONSE:

Please see Attachment TUS-A-11.

TUS-A-12:

Reference the Application, Paragraph 47. Please provide a copy of the response from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

RESPONSE:

Please see Attachment TUS-A-12.

TUS-A-13:

Reference the Application, Paragraph 48. Please provide a copy of the response from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

RESPONSE:

Please see Attachment TUS-A-13.

TUS-A-14:

Reference the Application, Attachment 10, page 23. Please explain whether the potential wetlands to be impacted are located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

RESPONSE:

Page 23 of Attachment 10 is specific to potential alternative routes to the south of the Project area and does not describe potential impacts of the actual Project area. The wetlands described in page 23 of Attachment 10 are located both within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Maryland and were identified by PECO as potentially impacted if PECO used an alternative route to the south of the proposed transmission routes. These wetlands are depicted in Attachment 10, Figure 10-5, along with additional constraints.

As confirmed in PECO Statement No. 3 at page 17, PECO identified wetlands within the actual Project area and PECO designed the new transmission line structures to minimize any direct wetland impacts. PECO conducted a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory review of the proposed Project and coordinated with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (“PADCNR”), the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (“PFBC”), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) to avoid potential impacts to the wetlands and species of concern. PECO is providing responses from each agency as Attachments TUS-A-11 through TUS-A-13. The PADCNR confirmed there are no anticipated impacts per survey with avoidance and monitoring from the Project. The PFBC identified one potential species of concern in the Project area and provided minimization and management strategies to minimize potential impacts to that species, which PECO will follow. The USFWS identified one potential species of concern

in the Project area and confirmed that the Project is not likely to adversely affect that species.

TUS-A-15:

Please explain whether the subject project is related to PPL Electric Utility Corporation's Three Mile Island – Chanceford 500 kV Transmission Line Project at Docket No. A-2024-3051167. If so, please provide a detailed explanation as to how the projects are interrelated.

RESPONSE:

PECO is not aware of a relation between the Brandon Shores Project and the PPL Electric Utility Corporation's ("PPL's") Three Mile Island – Chanceford 500 kV Transmission Line Project ("PPL Project") at Docket No. A-2024-3051167. The two projects do not share scopes of work, were not approved through the same "Immediate-need" process conducted by PJM and are not interrelated.

PECO notes that both PECO's PJM22RW3 Project in Docket No. A-2024-3051463 and the PPL Project were approved by PJM through the same Regional Transmission Expansion Plan ("RTEP") process. Specifically, the PJM22RW3 Project was approved in PJM's 2022 RTEP Window 3. According to PPL Electric Utility Corporation's application in Docket No. A-2024-3051167, the PPL Project was also approved in PJM's 2022 RTEP Window 3.⁷ As projects approved in PJM's 2022 RTEP Window 3, both projects are related in addressing the same overarching reliability needs identified by PJM. In addition, the PPL Project includes a scope of work under PJM project ID b3800.53 to bifurcate the existing TMI-Peach Bottom 500 kV line and create two new lines interconnected to a new proposed Chanceford substation. One of these lines will be a 500 kV line from Peach Bottom substation to the new Chanceford substation. As PECO explained in response to the Technical Utility Services' third set of data requests for the PJM22RW33 Project, PECO was assigned PJM project ID b3800.5, with the description "Peach Bottom-TMI 500 kV – Replace terminal equipment at Peach Bottom (install new line terminal relays and communication infrastructure within Peach Bottom and along the 5007)." PECO's PJM project ID b3800.5 will facilitate the PPL Project's PJM project ID b3800.53 through upgrades to the Peach Bottom terminal equipment to be compatible with the equipment that PPL will install in PPL's new Chanceford substation. The communication systems and general reliability of the Peach Bottom substation will also benefit through PECO's installation of newer terminal equipment. PECO is not aware of any further relation between the PJM22RW3 Project and PPL Project.

⁷ See Application of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Subchapter G, for Approval to (1) Construct The New Three Mile Island – Chanceford 500 kV Line And Chanceford – Peach Bottom 500 kV Transmission Line And (2) Rebuild the Existing Otter Creek – Conastone 230 kV Transmission Line For Future Double Circuit 500 kV Operations And The Rebuilt Chanceford – Doubs 500 kV Transmission Line And The Rebuilt Otter Creek – Conastone 500/230 kV Transmission Line, Located in Chanceford, East Hopewell, And Hopewell Townships In York County, Pennsylvania, Docket No. A-2024-3051167, at 9-10 (Sept. 13, 2024).

ATTACHMENT TUS-A-11



January 30, 2025

PNDI Number: 810587
Version: Final_2; 1/14/2025

Rebecca Buchanan

AECOM

625 West Ridge Pike

Suite E-100, 19428

Conshohocken, PA 19428

Email: becky.buchanan@aecom.com (hard copy will not follow)

**Re: PECO Brandon Shores/Dominion
Peach Bottom Township, York County, PA**

Dear Rebecca Buchanan,

Thank you for the submission of your field survey for Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number **810587 (Final_2)** for review. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

No Impact Anticipated per Survey with Avoidance and Monitoring

PA DCNR requested a botanical survey for this project on March 26, 2024. A survey was performed by Anthony Silva, Israel Berrios, Ethan DuBois, and Jacob DuBois throughout the 2024 growing/flowering seasons. Survey results are below:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status	Legal Protection Status
<i>Desmodium nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Tick-Trefoil	Tentatively undetermined	Threatened	Protected PNDI Environmental Review Species
<i>Dicanthelium scoparium</i>	Velvet Panic-grass	Endangered	Endangered	
<i>Hypericum stragulum</i>	Low St. John's Wort	Not Listed	Rare	
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	Threatened	De-list	
<i>Eupatorium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Boneset	Tentatively undetermined	Threatened	Unprotected Watch-list species
<i>Eupatorium torreyanum</i>	Fringed Boneset	Not Listed	Under Review	
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Mistflower	Not listed	None	
<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	Tall Sunflower	Not Listed	None	

Conservation Measures/Action Items:

- *Desmodium nuttallii, Dichantheium scoparium, Hypericum stragulum:*
There are no individuals directly located in the project LOD, however several populations and individuals are located in close proximity to grading and installation sites. As such please install orange protective fencing around all populations of these species throughout the duration of the construction. Ensure that plant locations are well marked on site plans for contractors, subcontractors, and on-site personnel. Avoid the use of broadcast herbicide application in these areas as well. Please perform one monitoring event post-construction and submit the monitoring report to DCNR for evaluation.
- *Dichantheium scoparium:* Please create a selective herbicide plan for the section of ROW that this species was identified. When spraying, please use a grass/graminoid-exclusive herbicide when performing vegetative maintenance.
- *Ilex opaca:*
It is DCNR's assessment that the American Holly individuals found on site are not genetically native to PA. They are most likely escaped cultivars, therefore no actions are required for this species.
- Watch-list species:
Due to the relative abundance of these populations on site, and lack of legal protection, no actions or required for these species. However these records are helpful for tracking overall population health in PA. Thank you for submitting these useful data to DCNR.

With the addition of these measures, DCNR has determined that no impact is likely. No further coordination with our agency is needed for this project.

Recommended Best Management Practices:

- Use a conservative approach to project design that minimizes permanent and temporary disturbances to soil and native vegetation. This will conserve habitat and limit opportunities for invasive plants.
- Clean boot treads, tools, construction equipment, watercraft, and vehicles thoroughly (especially the undercarriage and wheels) before they are brought on site. This will remove invasive plant seeds and invasive earthworms/cocoons that may have been picked up at other worksites.
- Use clean project materials (e.g., weed-free straw, topsoil, rock fill, etc.) or materials native to the worksite to avoid introducing invasive species from contaminated sources.
- Do not use seed mixes that include invasive species. More information about invasive plants in Pennsylvania can be found at the following link:
<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/InvasivePlants/Pages/default.aspx>
- Use habitat appropriate seed mixes and, when available, use PA ecotypes. For example, use a riparian seed mix when reseeding along a waterway. The Bureau of Forestry Planting & Seeding Guidelines can be found at the following link for recommendations:
http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20031083.pdf

conserve

sustain

enjoy

- Use native plants for landscaping, revegetation, and stormwater management. Do not use nonnative invasive species. Reduce the area of lawn and impermeable surfaces to the fullest extent practicable in favor of native gardens or habitat restoration (e.g., forest, meadow, wetland, etc.). More information about lawn conversion can be found at the following link: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/LawnConversion/Pages/default.aspx>
- Plant forest buffers where trees were historically present along streams, wetlands, and bodies of water. Buffers should be a minimum of 35 feet in width (ideally at least 100 feet in width). Where trees are not appropriate (e.g., powerline rights-of-way), buffer with native shrubs and herbaceous plants. More information about riparian buffers can be found at the following link: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiparianBuffers/Pages/default.aspx>
- Manage road/utility rights-of-way, median strips, edges, and other green spaces for diverse native plant communities and wildlife (e.g., common and swamp milkweed for monarch butterfly). In seed mixes, include PA native wildflowers that have overlapping bloom periods and provide forage for pollinators throughout the growing season.
- Avoid blanket herbicide applications; instead, spot-treat undesirable tall woody vegetation and invasive weeds. Where mowing is necessary, reduce frequency to once every few years during the dormant season (i.e., after first frost in late fall and before bird nesting in early spring), leaving some refugia for overwintering wildlife.
- Monitor for invasive plants before, during, and after project activities and promptly control any identified infestations. Frequent monitoring allows for early detection and rapid response.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alexander Dogonniuck, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-783-3913) or via email (c-adogonni@pa.gov).

Sincerely,



Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section

BUREAU OF FORESTRY

March 26, 2024

PNDI Number: 810587

Version: Final_1; 3/26/24

Rebecca Buchanan

Project Manager

625 West Ride Pike, Suite E-100

Conshohocken, PA 19428

Email: becky.buchanan@aecom.com (hard copy will not follow)

**Re: PECO Brandon Shores/Dominion
Peach Bottom Township, York County, PA**

Dear Rebecca Buchanan,

Thank you for the submission of the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Environmental Review Receipt Number 810587 (Final_1) for review. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources screened this project for potential impacts to species and resources under DCNR's responsibility, which includes plants, terrestrial invertebrates, natural communities, and geologic features only.

Potential Impact Anticipated – Survey Request

PNDI records indicate species or resources under DCNR's jurisdiction are located in the project vicinity. Based on a detailed PNDI review, DCNR determined potential impacts to the following threatened or endangered species or species of special concern.

Scientific Name	Common Name	PA Current Status	PA Proposed Status	Survey Window	Suitable Habitat	Local Habitat
<i>Lobelia puberula</i>	Downy Lobelia	PE	PE	Flowers late August – September	Moist, sandy soil of old fields, gravel pits and serpentine barrens	Muddy Creek SE of Woodbine
<i>Euphorbia purpurea</i>	Glade Spurge	PE	PE	Flowers May – July	Swamps or moist thickets on rich soils	Bryansville Station Seep
<i>Dichanthelium scoparium</i>	Velvety panic-grass	PE	PE	Vernal terminal panicles May – early July or late summer or early fall	Moist meadows and swales	Koepper Property
<i>Vernonia glauca</i>	Tawny ironweed	PE	PE	Flowers July – October	Dry fields, open slopes or clearings	Campbell Property
<i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>	Harbinger-of-spring	PT	PR	Flowers March – April	Seeps and spring heads on wooded slopes	Peach Bottom woods
<i>Asplenium pinnatifidum</i>	Lobed Spleenwort	PR	PR	Year-round (evergreen)	Dry, shaded rock crevices,	Atom Road woods

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P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17015-8552 717-787-3444 (fax) 717-772-0271

					in subacidic to circumneutral	
<i>Packera anonyma</i>	Plain Ragwort	PR	PR	Flowers May – September	Dry fields, open woods and serpentine barrens	Koepper Property
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringe-tree	N	PT	Flowers May; purple . black fruit in fall	Moist, open woods and woods edges, also cultivated	Castle Fin
<i>Trillium flexipes</i>	Declined Trillium	TU	PT	Flowers late April – early May	Wooded hillsides, swampy woods and floodplains	Peach bottom woods
<i>Trillium cernuum</i>	Nodding Trillium	N	PT	Flowers April – May	Rich woods	Bryansville Station Seep
<i>Nabalus serpentaria</i>	Lion’s-foot	N	PT	Flowers August – early October	Dry woods, clearings and gravelly roadsides	Koepper Property
<i>Desmodium nuttallii</i>	Nuttalls’ Tick-trefoil	TU	PT	Flowers July – September	Open woods and edges	Campbell Property; south population

- ✓ **Survey Request:** A botanical survey for the above species should be conducted by a qualified botanist at the appropriate time of year. Please submit the resulting report to our office for review. Contact our office prior to the survey for detailed information about the species or for a list of qualified surveyors.
- ✓ **Your botanist should carefully review the new DCNR Botanical Survey Protocols available at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/survey-protocols>.** These protocols are recommended to ensure that all necessary information is collected and that survey reports are prepared properly. It is the expectation of DCNR that these protocols will be followed when conducting surveys for species under our jurisdiction.
- ✓ **DCNR recommends that a Wild Plant Management Permit be obtained before conducting botanical surveys for Threatened, Endangered, and Special Concern PA Plant Species.** Permit information and application can be found here: <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/resources>
- ✓ **A list of qualified botanists who have obtained our Wild Plant Management Permit can be found at <https://conservationexplorer.dcnr.pa.gov/content/wild-plant-management-permit-holders>.** These botanists are suitable candidates to perform a survey to our scientific standards.
- ✓ All target and non-target state-listed species found during the botanical survey should be reported to our office. **Please submit a completed Botanical Field Survey Form for each occurrence or population identified: <http://www.gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/PNDI/2015%20Field%20Survey%20Form.pdf>.** Mitigation measures and monitoring may be requested if state-listed species are found on or adjacent to the site.
- ✓ If preferred habitat does not exist on site, a survey may not be necessary. Please submit a habitat assessment report which describes the current land cover, habitat types, and species found on site.

This response represents the most up-to-date review of the PNDI data files and is valid for two (2) years only. If project plans change or more information on listed or proposed species becomes available, our determination may be reconsidered. Should the proposed work continue beyond the period covered by this letter and a permit has not been acquired, please resubmit the project to this agency as an “Update” (including an updated PNDI receipt,

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project narrative, description of project changes and accurate map). As a reminder, this finding applies to potential impacts under DCNR's jurisdiction only. Visit the PNHP website for directions on contacting the Commonwealth's other resource agencies for environmental review.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alexander Dogonniuck, Ecological Information Specialist, by phone (717-783-3913) or via email (c-adogonni@pa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Podnieszinski". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Greg Podnieszinski, Section Chief
Natural Heritage Section

ATTACHMENT TUS-A-12



February 27, 2025

IN REPLY REFER TO

SIR# 59558

AECOM

Rebecca Buchanan

625 West Ridge Pike

Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 810587_1
PECO Brandon Shores/Dominion
Peach Bottom Township: YORK County**

Dear Rebecca Buchanan:

This letter is part of an ongoing consultation between the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and you regarding avoidance of impacts to the Broad-headed Skink (*Plestiodon laticeps*, PA Candidate).

You have provided detailed layouts of the project depicting proposed earth disturbance, in particular, tree clearing, as well as a description of the habitats on site provided by DuBois and Associates. Kathy Gipe of my staff reviewed these materials with you and in detail to determine the likelihood of the project impacting potential skink habitat. We also considered the project's distance from known occurrences of the Broad-headed Skink.

The following minimization and management strategies were created to meet the needs of the project applicant, the PFBC, and the Broad-headed Skink. This set of minimization and mitigation techniques should avoid unnecessary impacts to the Broad-headed Skink and its habitat during construction and could be carried out without a more detailed presence/absence survey for the species.

1. Reduction of Proposed Disturbance Area

The applicants have proactively reduced the disturbance areas to the minimum practicable for execution of the proposed project.

2. Seasonal restriction.

Tree Clearing within identified potential Broad-headed Skink habitat east of Booker Road in the areas surrounding the Peach Bottom North and South Substations should be conducted between November 15 and April 15 while the skinks are hibernating. Where possible, tree stumps and rocky ground cover will be left in place within these areas.

3. Creation of Habitat Areas for Future Use by the Broad-headed Skink.

Within the project area east of Booker Road, logs and rocks needed to be cleared from the right-of-way should be placed along the south-facing forest edges. Stones (no less than 2 feet on a side with no upper size limit) should be piled in pyramid shape to low pinnacle of 3 feet above grade. These stone habitats can be (roughly) square, rectangular, or circular configuration. Stone can be used from onsite or offsite sources.

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data and our files and is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. An absence of recorded species information does not necessarily imply species absence. Our data files and the PNDI system are continuously being updated with species occurrence information. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered, and consultation shall be re-initiated.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Kathy Gipe at 814-359-5186 or c-kgipe@pa.gov and refer to the SIR # 59558. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher A. Urban". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning.

Christopher A. Urban, Chief
Natural Diversity Section

CAU/KDG/dn



October 29, 2024

IN REPLY REFER TO

SIR# 59558

AECOM

Rebecca Buchanan

625 West Ridge Pike

Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 810587_1
PECO Brandon Shores/Dominion
Peach Bottom Township: YORK County**

Dear Rebecca Buchanan:

In follow-up to our initial review letter on this project, we received a report from DuBois and Associates detailing habitats along the proposed transmission line corridor. Several habitats were identified that could support the **Broad-headed Skink (*Plestiodon laticeps*, Candidate)**. The report included recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to these habitats and a statement that PECO was working on the design of the project to incorporate these measures. I concur with the locations of the identified habitats and will need to further review project plans in these areas to determine additional avoidance measures.

Minimization and management strategies should be considered in the layout to meet the needs of the project applicant and conservation efforts for the Broad-headed Skink. These techniques may be necessary to avoid unnecessary impacts to the Broad-headed Skink and its habitat during construction and may include a significant reduction of the proposed disturbance area, utilization of exclusion barriers around habitat areas during construction, creation of habitat areas for future use by the Broad-headed Skink, and pre-construction surveys or monitoring. Alternatively, a survey to determine the presence/absence of the Broad-headed Skink in the habitat areas could be done by a qualified biologist. Note that currently, we do not have a list of qualified surveyors for the Broad-headed Skink. However, Mr. Brandon Ruhe of Ecological Associates, LLC has demonstrated his proficiency in finding Broadhead Skinks in Pennsylvania and in other nearby states, as well as identifying their critical habitats. We have reviewed his credentials, approved him, as well as permit him (Type 3 Scientific Collectors' Permit) to search for and collect Broad-headed Skinks. His contact information follows.

Brandon Ruhe
Ecological Associates, LLC
P.O. Box 181
Oley, PA 19547
610-987-6585
eabruhe@gmail.com

Please let me know which course of action you determine and we can continue our review of

the project once a more detailed layout can be provided. Follow-up information may be uploaded to the PA Conservation Explorer site PNDI project file.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Kathy Gipe at 814-359-5186 or c-kgipe@pa.gov and refer to the SIR # 59558. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important matter of species conservation and habitat protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher A. Urban". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher A. Urban, Chief
Natural Diversity Section

CAU/KDG/dn



April 2, 2024

IN REPLY REFER TO
SIR# 59558

AECOM
Rebecca Buchanan
625 West Ridge Pike
Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428

**RE: Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species
PNDI Search No. 810587_1
PECO Brandon Shores/Dominion
Peach Bottom Township: YORK County**

Dear Rebecca Buchanan:

This responds to your inquiry about a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) Internet Database search “potential conflict” or a threatened and endangered species impact review. These projects are screened for potential conflicts with rare, candidate, threatened or endangered species under Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission jurisdiction (fish, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates only) using the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) database and our own files. These species of special concern are listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code (Chapter 75), or the Wildlife Code.

Broad-headed Skink (*Plestiodon laticeps*, Candidate)

The Broad-headed Skink is a rare, arboreal lizard species of the Commonwealth that inhabits damp forested areas. Based on the review of this information and the proximity of the project to known element occurrences of the species of concern listed above, potential habitat could be present within the proposed disturbance area. Therefore, additional evaluations are necessary to confirm whether or not the project site contains habitat and to determine the potential for adverse impacts to this species. We request completion of a **habitat assessment** to characterize and determine if potential habitat exists within the vicinity of the proposed project area.

The Broadhead Skink habitat needs to be assessed along the length of the corridor where earth disturbance will occur. Note that currently, we do not have a list of qualified surveyors for the Broadhead Skink. However, Mr. Brandon Ruhe of Ecological Associates, LLC has demonstrated his proficiency in finding Broadhead Skinks in Pennsylvania and in other nearby states, as well as identifying their critical habitats. We have reviewed his credentials, approved him, as well as permit him (Type 3 Scientific Collectors’ Permit) to search for and collect Broadhead Skinks. His contact information follows.

Brandon Ruhe
Ecological Associates, LLC
P.O. Box 181
Oley, PA 19547
610-987-6585
eabruhe@gmail.com

ATTACHMENT TUS-A-13

PNDI # 810587

USFWS Project # 2024-0114825

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101, State College, PA 16801

This responds to your inquiry about a PNDI Internet Database search that resulted in a potential conflict with a federally listed, proposed or candidate species.

PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATIONCounty: YorkTownship: Peach BottomUSFWS COMMENTS EMAILED MAILEDTo: Rebecca Buchanan**MISC INFORMATION**Date received by FWS: July 11, 2024Email: becky.buchanan@aecom.comAffiliation: AECOM Technical Services, Inc.SPECIFIC PROJECT: PECO Brandon Shores/Dominion**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COMMENT(S):** **NO EFFECT**

Except for occasional transient species, no federally listed, proposed or candidate species under our jurisdiction are known or likely to exist in the project area. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

 NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT

The federally listed bog turtle occurs or may occur in or near the project area. However, based on our review of the information provided, including the project description and location (Wetlands 8, 9, 12, 14, and 15 were found to contain potential bog turtle habitat. Bryon DuBois and Anthony Silva, qualified bog turtle surveyor, conducted a Phase 2 presence/ probable absence bog turtle surveys for the wetland on the dates of April 23, May 7, May 22 and June 7, 2024.

No bog turtles or evidence of bog turtles were found on any of the survey dates, suggesting the probable absence of the species.), no adverse effects to this species are likely to occur. If there is any change in the location, scale, scope, layout or design of the project, further consultation or coordination with the Service will be necessary.

The above determination is valid for two years from the date of this letter. In addition, this response relates only to federally listed, proposed, and candidate species under our jurisdiction, based on an office review of the proposed project's location and anticipated impacts. No field inspection of the project area has been conducted by this office. *Please reference the above PNDI # and USFWS Project # in any future correspondence regarding this project.*

This review was conducted by the biologist listed below. He/she can be contacted at 814-206-(Extension).

 Pamela Shellenberger (x7459) Monica Mestre (x7462) Nicole Ranalli (x7455) Jennifer Kagel (x7451) Richard Novak (x7477) Sze Wing Yu (x7461)SIGNATURE: **ROBERT
ANDERSON**

Digitally signed by ROBERT
ANDERSON
Date: 2024.11.27 11:53:56
-05'00'

Supervisor, Pennsylvania Field Office

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**Application of PECO Energy Company Filed :
Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71 *et seq.* for :
Approval of the Siting and Construction of : Docket Nos. A-2024-3051467
the Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation : P-2025-3053944
Project Located in Peach Bottom Township, :
York County, Pennsylvania and Petition for :
Waiver of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(c)(10) :**

VERIFICATION

I, William J. Patterer, hereby state the facts set forth are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

DATE: 7/28/2025



WILLIAM J. PATERER
Vice President, Projects and Contracts

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**Application of PECO Energy Company Filed :
Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71 *et seq.* for :
Approval of the Siting and Construction of : Docket Nos. A-2024-3051467
the Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation : P-2025-3053944
Project Located in Peach Bottom Township, :
York County, Pennsylvania and Petition for :
Waiver of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(c)(10) :**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify and affirm that I have this day served a copy of the Responses of PECO Energy Company to Data Requests of the Bureau of Technical Utility Services on the following persons in the manner specified in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54:

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Darryl A. Lawrence
Office of Consumer Advocate
Forum Place – 5th Floor
555 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1921
dlawrence@paoca.org

Allison C. Kaster
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
PA Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor West
Harrisburg, PA 17120
akaster@pa.gov

Jordan Van Order
Bureau of Technical Utility Services
PA Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor West
Harrisburg, PA 17120
jvanorder@pa.gov

NazAarah Sabree
Office of Small Business Advocate
Forum Place - 1st Floor
555 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
nsabree@pa.gov

Dated: July 29, 2025



Kenneth M. Kulak
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
2222 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2921
(215) 963-5384
ken.kulak@morganlewis.com