

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

Public Meeting held September 25, 2025

Commissioners Present:

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman  
Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair  
Kathryn L. Zerfuss  
John F. Coleman, Jr.  
Ralph V. Yanora

Letter of Notification of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for approval to construct the Susquehanna 230 kV and 500 kV Transmission Line Project in Conyngham and Salem Townships, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

Docket Numbers:  
A-2025-3056806  
P-2025-3056867

Petition for Waiver of Certain Provisions of the Commission's Regulations for Commission Review of Siting and Construction of Electric Transmission Lines set forth at 52 Pa. Code § 57.71 *et seq.*

**ORDER**

**BY THE COMMISSION:**

On August 11, 2025, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL Electric), Utility Code 110500, filed a Letter of Notification pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's (Commission) transmission line siting regulations. On August 25, 2025, PPL Electric filed a Petition for Waiver pursuant to

52 Pa Code §§ 5.43 and 57.72(e) seeking a waiver in order to file a Letter of Notification pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d) in lieu of an application under 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71 and 57.72(a)-(c). For the reasons expressed in this Order, the Petition for Waiver is granted, and the Letter of Notification is approved.

### **Petition for Waiver**

PPL Electric filed a petition for waiver of certain provisions of the Commission’s regulations for Commission Review of Siting and Construction of Electric Transmission Lines set forth at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71-57.77. Specifically, PPL Electric seeks a waiver of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(vi) to construct the Susquehanna 230 kV and 500 kV Transmission Line Project.

PPL Electric submits that the petition concerns construction of Susquehanna 230 kV and 500 kV Transmission Line Project which includes two new 230 kV transmission lines and one new 500 kV transmission line, as well as re-termination of two existing 230 kV transmission lines and raising the height of a third existing 230 kV line, and PPL Electric’s plan to provide service to a new customer. PPL Electric also submits that the subject project is located in Conyngham and Salem Townships, Luzerne County. Petition, pages 2-3.

PPL Electric states that the ability to proceed by means of a single Letter of Notification will permit PPL Electric to complete the filings required for approval in a much shorter period of time than would be required to prepare a complete siting application for the subject project. PPL Electric also states that construction of the subject project is anticipated to commence in October 2025 to support an in-service date of April 2028. Finally, PPL Electric states that regulatory review in a shorter period of time will enable PPL Electric to complete construction of the subject project and maintain the construction

and in-service dates without jeopardizing or otherwise delaying the construction schedule required for the customer. Petition ¶11.

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 reconductored 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).

In addition, waiver of the specific requirements of the Commission's Transmission Line Siting Regulations, at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71-57.77, is provided for in § 57.72(e):

(e) The Commission or the presiding officer may – upon the petition of any party, upon the Commission's own motion, or upon the presiding officer's own motion – waive one or more or all of the requirements in this subchapter. The petition shall clearly state the requirement sought to be waived and the reason therefore.

52 Pa. Code § 57.72(e).

PPL Electric submits that the subject project nearly satisfies the criteria to file a Letter of Notification. PPL Electric also submits that while the subject project does not fit the technical requirements of the exceptions outlined in 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d), inasmuch as the project nearly meets the exceptions of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(vi), waiver of the strict application of this subsection, and permission to file a Letter of Notification is nevertheless appropriate. Finally, PPL Electric submits that given each of the new transmission lines serves the same customer and addresses the same need, PPL Electric has requested approval of all of these lines as a part of a single Letter of Notification. Petition ¶¶19-21 and page 3.

PPL Electric states that, in particular, the entire construction area totals approximately 2.46 miles in length, and, while that length exceeds the two-mile standard to file a Letter of Notification found in 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(vi), the construction of new lines comprises only about 2.1 miles of the project and that those lines could be separated into three distinct components each less than 2 miles in length. PPL Electric also states that

the first component of the project is building approximately 1.5 miles of new single circuit 230 kV transmission line which spans from the existing Susquehanna 230 kV Switchyard to the existing customer owned SS01 230-69 kV Substation. Additionally, PPL Electric states that the second component of the project includes constructing a new single circuit 500 kV transmission line which spans approximately 0.2 miles from the Susquehanna 500 kV Switchyard to the existing customer owned SS02 500-69 kV substation. PPL Electric further states that the third component of the project includes building a new double circuit 0.4-mile long 230 kV transmission line from the Susquehanna T10 230 kV Switchyard to the new customer owned SS0X 230-34 kV Substation. Finally, PPL Electric states that each of the three new lines will be constructed entirely on property owned by the customer or Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) and while SSES is not PPL Electric's customer they are a third-party related to the customer that is specifically requesting PPL Electric to undertake the subject project. Application, Attachment 3, page 3; PPL Electric Data Request Response Nos. 3 & 4; and Petition ¶¶10 & 12-16.

PPL Electric submits that a fourth component of the project consists of reconfiguring three existing transmission lines to accommodate the new construction and that this component fits into 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i) and (vi). PPL Electric also submits that the fourth component will be constructed entirely within an existing right-of-way and over an area approximately 0.36 mile in length. PPL Electric further submits that the number of structures located within the right-of-way for the three lines will not change and that the transmission lines will be reconfigured in such a manner as to not substantially alter the existing right-of-way. Application, Attachment 3, page 3; PPL Electric Data Request Response Nos. 2, 3, & 4; and Petition ¶16.

The Commission's Transmission Line Siting Regulation specifically provides for waivers of a specific siting regulation. 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(e). The Commission believes that the waiver request of PPL Electric is warranted. No protests were filed and granting the waiver would not be inconsistent with applicable law or Commission Policy and precedent regarding transmission line siting.

The entirety of the project is located within property owned by the customer, SSES, and PPL Electric's right-of-way for existing transmission lines and includes new construction within 2.1 miles of new right-of-way. Although the entirety of the subject project would not fit into one of the HV line categories for a Letter of Notification, each of the four individual components of the subject project, *on their own*, would qualify for the use of a Letter of Notification under 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i) or (vi). Therefore, we are granting PPL Electric's request for a waiver of certain provisions set forth at 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d).

### **Letter of Notification**

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). No protests were filed. No hearings were held.

PPL Electric requests approval to construct the Susquehanna 230 kV and 500 kV Transmission Line Project located in Conyngham and Salem Townships, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. PPL Electric states that the subject project includes constructing the new SUSQ – SS01 230 kV Transmission Line extending approximately 1.5 miles from the existing Susquehanna 230 kV Switchyard to the existing customer owned SS01 230-69 kV Substation; constructing the new SU10 – SS0X #1 & #2 230 kV Transmission Line extending approximately 0.4 miles from existing Susquehanna T10 230 kV Switchyard to

the new customer owned SS0X 230-34 kV Substation; constructing the new SUSQ – SS02 500 kV Transmission Line extending approximately 0.2 miles from the Susquehanna 500 kV Switchyard to the existing customer owned SS02 500-69 kV Substation. PPL Electric further states that the project also includes re-terminating the existing Sunbury – Susquehanna #1 230 kV Line and the Susquehanna T10 – Transformer 10 Tap 230 kV Line and raising the height of three spans of the existing Susquehanna – Transformer 21 230 kV Line. Application, pages 1-2.

PPL Electric submits that construction of the Susquehanna 230 kV and 500 kV Transmission Line Project is necessary to provide 230 kV and 500 kV service to a new PPL Electric customer. PPL Electric also submits that the customer currently takes service from SSES in a behind the meter configuration and that the customer has requested its substation be served from PPL Electric’s transmission lines to have the customer’s demand become network load. Additionally, PPL Electric submits that the customer’s initial load is approximately 120 MW and will increase in stages to approximately 1,440 MW by 2030 and that due to the size of the load the customer is most appropriately served from the 230 kV and 500 kV network. PPL Electric further submits that the customer will be served as a typical PPL Electric large load customer under the PPL Electric Retail Tariff, rate class LP-5. Finally, PPL Electric submits that the project was presented at PJM Interconnection LLC’s Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee meeting and assigned supplemental project number s3706. Application ¶¶12-13, 24, & 26.

PPL Electric states that the new and modified 230 kV and 500 kV transmission line conductors will be supported on 29 new steel monopoles. PPL Electric also states that the new structures will range from approximately 50 feet in height to approximately 175 feet in height and that the six existing structures to be replaced range from approximately 105 feet in height to approximately 130 feet in height. PPL Electric also states that the conductors for the SU10 – SS0X line will consist of six 1590 kcmil “Falcon” 54/19 aluminum

conductor steel supported (ACSS) conductors, the SUSQ – SS01 line will consist of three 1590 kcmil “Falcon” 54/19 ACSS conductors, and the SUSQ – SS02 line will consist of three triple bundle 1590 kcmil “Falcon” 54/19 aluminum conductor steel reinforced conductors (ACSR). PPL Electric further states that the subject project will be located within existing right-of-way owned by PPL Electric and new right-of-way owned by SSES or the customer. Finally, PPL Electric states that the new right-of-way varies from approximately 75 feet in width to approximately 150 feet in width and that the existing right-of-way varies from approximately 350 feet in width to approximately 950 feet in width. Application ¶¶55-56 & 58-59; Attachment 2, Table 2-1 and PPL Electric Data Request Response No. 13.

PPL Electric asserts that the Susquehanna 230kV and 500 kV Transmission Line Project will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner that meets or surpasses all applicable National Electrical Safety Code minimum standards and all applicable legal requirements. Application ¶41.

PPL Electric submits that the total estimated cost for the subject project is approximately \$30.2 million and that PPL Electric will own and construct the project. PPL Electric also submits that the customer will be responsible for approximately \$26.8 million of the cost and the difference will be assumed by PPL Electric consistent with its electric retail tariff for rate class LP-5. PPL Electric further submits that the addition of approximately 1 gigawatt of load has the potential to reduce other customers’ transmission charges by approximately 10%. Finally, PPL Electric submits that construction of the project is to be completed in phases with the first phase anticipated to commence in October 2025 and the fourth phase proposed to be placed in-service April 2028. Application ¶12 and pages 3-4 and PPL Electric Data Request Response No. 7.

The formal PPL Electric Letter of Notification and manner in which it was filed conforms to the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72. 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 Petition for Waiver of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for the waiver of certain provisions of the Commission’s Regulations for Commission Review of Siting and Construction of Electric Transmission Lines set forth at 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(vi) is hereby granted.

2. That the Letter of Notification of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation for approval to construct the Susquehanna 230 kV and 500 kV Transmission Line Project, located in Conyngham and Salem Townships, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, is hereby approved.

3. That upon completion of the subject project, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation shall file the final project cost with the Commission.

4. That this proceeding at Docket No. P-2025-3056867 be closed.

5. That upon completion of Ordering Paragraph 3, this proceeding at Docket No. A-2025-3056806 be closed.

**BY THE COMMISSION,**

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

Matthew L. Homsher  
Secretary

ORDER ADOPTED: September 25, 2025

ORDER ENTERED: September 25, 2025