

**PENNSYLVANIA  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265**

Public Meeting held February 19, 2026

Commissioners Present:

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

Pennsylvania Accelerated Transmission And Energy  
Redevelopment (PATER) Study

Docket No. M-2026-3059601

**ORDER**

**BY THE COMMISSION:**

The Commission opens this proceeding to facilitate a Pennsylvania Accelerated Transmission and Energy Redevelopment (PATER) Study in partnership with Governor Josh Shapiro's Office of Public Policy, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the Department of Environmental Protection - Energy Programs Office, Office of Consumer Advocate, and Team PA Foundation (Team PA). The PATER Study is to be funded entirely with federal monies to be sub-awarded to the Commission from RTI International (RTI), the parent company of TechWerx, under the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Transmission Acceleration Grant (TAG). There is no federal cost share requirement. With this Order the Commission opens the above-referenced Docket to administer the PATER Study under the direction and oversight of key Commission personnel listed in the terms of such an agreement.

## **I. Procedural History**

On October 31, 2024, the Grid Deployment Office of the DOE (GDO) announced \$10 million available to states, tribes, and non-profit organizations to accelerate transmission deployment through the TAG Program, which supports capacity building and local and regional transmission planning or siting and permitting process reforms. The technical assistance partnerships under the TAG program are managed by TechWerx, a collaboration made possible through an innovative Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) established by the DOE's Office of Technology Transitions (OTT).

On January 21, 2025, the Commission applied to TechWerx and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy seeking \$1,950,000 to fund a PATER Study. On September 9, 2025, TechWerx notified the Commission that it had been selected for an award in the amount of \$1,950,000. On December 17, 2025, a Subaward Agreement between RTI and this Commission was executed. On February 3, 2026, the DOE's Office of Electricity f/k/a Grid Deployment Office announced the selection of this Commission's project.<sup>1</sup>

## **II. PATER Study**

This grant will support Pennsylvania's transmission planning for critical transmission lines (100 kV or greater). Specifically, this grant will support a two-part PATER study that will assess the need for and impacts of new transmission infrastructure in Pennsylvania.

At certain stages during the study, public input will be requested before a final report is issued. It is anticipated that the study will last approximately one year and assess twenty (20) retired electric generation facility sites as well as existing and needed

---

<sup>1</sup> [Energy Department Awards \\$2.5M to Accelerate Transmission, Lower Energy Costs, and Maintain a Reliable and Resilient Grid](#) last checked February 3, 2026.

transmission improvements to improve resource adequacy and increase generation capacity and capability within Pennsylvania.

The Commission hereby determines that due to the time constraints imposed by the RTI subaward and the subsequent embargo placed on the Commission regarding the public release of information about the subaward, it is clearly not feasible to award a contract for administrative services on a competitive basis.<sup>2</sup> The PATER Study will support Pennsylvania's transmission planning for critical transmission lines (100 kV or greater) by assessing the need for and impact of new transmission infrastructure in Pennsylvania. As such, the sole source procurement of administrative services is warranted, because it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth.<sup>3</sup> Team PA, a non-profit organization, will administer the PATER Study to fulfill the grant requirements under the oversight of the PUC. Team PA convenes cross-sector collaboratives in agriculture, manufacturing, energy, robotics and technology. Team PA will bring together diverse stakeholders across industry, government, academia, nonprofit, and labor to identify the issues we must collectively contend with and to build a cohesive energy strategy that preserves our statewide ecosystem.; **THEREFORE,**

**IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That Commission Staff is authorized to negotiate on behalf of the Commission an agreement with Team PA for administrative services pertaining to administration of the PATER Study under the direction and oversight of key Commission personnel to be listed in the terms of such an agreement.

2. That the Commission shall release PATER Study Preliminary Reports for public comments.

---

<sup>2</sup> 62 Pa. C.S. § 515(4).

<sup>3</sup> 62 Pa. C.S. § 515(10).

3. That the Commission shall file PATER Study Final Reports at Docket No. M-2026-3059601 after its review of any submitted public comments to the Preliminary Reports.

4. That the Commission shall provide a copy of the PATER Study Final Report to the General Assembly, Governor's Office on Policy, Department of Community and Economic Development, the Department of Environmental Protection-Energy Programs Office, Office of Small Business Advocate, and Office of Consumer Advocate within ten days of its filing at this docketed proceeding.

5. That a copy of this Order be served upon all electric distribution companies, the Office of Small Business Advocate, Office of Consumer Advocate, and the Energy Association of Pennsylvania.

**BY THE COMMISSION:**



Matthew L. Homsher  
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: February 19, 2026

ORDER ENTERED: February 19, 2026