

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

Public Meeting held March 26, 2026

Commissioners Present:

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

Letter of Notification of Keystone Appalachian
Transmission Company for Approval to
Reconfigure the Harrison City – Hempfield –
Luxor 138 kV Transmission Line in Hempfield
and Salem Townships, Westmoreland County,
Pennsylvania

Docket Number:
A-2026-3060612

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On February 20, 2026, Keystone Appalachian Transmission Company (KATCo), Utility Code 1126021, filed a Letter of Notification pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i) & (v) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's (Commission) transmission line siting regulation. For the reasons expressed in this Order, the Letter of Notification is approved.

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.

KATCo requests approval to reconfigure the Harrison City – Hempfield – Luxor 138 kV Transmission Line in Hempfield and Salem Townships, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. KATCo states that the subject project will take place in three non-contiguous areas totaling approximately 2.2 miles of work. KATCo also states that the first area includes the work from existing structure #138 to existing structure #136, and from existing structure #137 to existing structure #1. Additionally, KATCo states that the second area includes the work from existing structure #142A1 to proposed structure #142A, and from existing structure #141 to existing structure #149. KATCo further states that the third area includes the work from existing structure #1 to proposed structure #4D. Finally, KATCo states that upon completion of the subject project the Harrison City – Hempfield – Luxor line will be renamed the Penn – Stoney Springs 138 kV Transmission Line, Hempfield – Stoney Springs 138 kV Transmission Line, and the Luxor – Stoney Springs 138 kV Transmission Line. Application ¶¶16, Exhibit 2, and KATCo Data Request Response No. 16.

KATCo submits that the subject project is needed to provide a 138 kV transmission line loop to the proposed Stoney Springs Substation and that the new substation is needed to reduce the number of power disruptions to residential and commercial customers due to transmission line outages and improve the reliability of the transmission network and the local distribution system. KATCo also submits that the existing Harrison City – Hempfield – Luxor line is a three-terminal line that lacks switches on the existing taps to both North Oakford and South Oakford substations. Finally, KATCo submits that this limits the ability of operators to sectionalize and isolate faults or perform maintenance on the transmission line while maintaining service to customers. Application ¶¶7 & 14 and KATCo Data

Request Response No. 9.

KATCo states that the Harrison City – Hempfield – Luxor 138 kV line provides direct service to over 16,000 customers. KATCo also states that the line is a network path between the Harrison City, Hempfield, and Luxor substations and that approximately 43 MW of load is served directly from the line. Additionally, KATCo states that the three-terminal line creates difficulties for protective relaying coordination in the event of a fault on the line. KATCo further states that there have been four unscheduled outages on the subject line since 2020. Finally, KATCo states that the duration of these outages ranged from a few seconds to over nineteen hours and that each outage impacted approximately 10,675 customers. Application ¶¶14 & 18.

KATCo submits that to address these issues it will construct the Stoney Springs Substation with a three-breaker ring bus to provide an additional sectionalizing point on the transmission system to improve reliability. KATCo also submits that doing so will reduce the line exposure of each substation connected to the transmission line and the risks to reliability. Additionally, KATCo submits that reconfiguring the 138 kV junction to a three-breaker ring bus switching substation will provide redundancy and eliminate the outage of all tapped substation loads due to a single line fault on any part of the existing three-point transmission line by creating three independent transmission lines. KATCo further submits that the subject project will make the transmission system in the area more reliable, as well as provide increased operational flexibility. Finally, KATCo submits that the subject project was presented at the PJM Interconnection, LLC Regional Transmission Expansion Planning committee meeting in July 2023 and November 2024 and assigned supplemental project number s3575.1. Application ¶23 and KATCo Data Request Response No. 11.

KATCo states that it considered one alternative solution, constructing a double

circuit transmission line from existing structure #148 to the Luxor Substation. KATCo also states that this alternative would require rebuilding approximately four miles of transmission line, including the replacement of the existing conductor. Additionally, KATCo states that the estimated cost for the alternative solution is approximately \$34 million. Finally, KATCo states that the subject project was chosen due to the overall lower impact to property owners and ecological features. Application ¶¶24 and KATCo Data Request Response No. 18.

KATCo submits that to facilitate reconfiguration of the Harrison City – Hempfield – Luxor line it will remove 4 existing transmission structures and install 13 new structures as well as additional conductors on two sections of transmission line. KATCo also submits that the new conductors will be 954 kcmil 45/7 aluminum conductor steel reinforced (ACSR) “Rail” conductor and extend from existing structure #1 to existing structure #4 and from existing structure #4A to existing structure #4D. Additionally, KATCo submits that the new structures range from approximately 65 feet in height to approximately 105 feet in height and that existing nearby transmission structures range from approximately 55 feet in height to approximately 115 feet in height. KATCo further submits that the subject project has been designed and will be built entirely within the existing right-of-way, approximately 100 feet in width, with the exception of one structure. Finally, KATCo submits that proposed structure #4B will be constructed outside Stoney Springs Substation on a parcel owned by KATCo. Application ¶¶10-11, 27-28, & 33-34 and KATCo Data Request Response No. 6.

KATCo states that under the current configuration a fault on any section of the transmission line will interrupt service to all the substations served from the Harrison City – Hempfield – Luxor line and that it could take up to 3 hours to restore customers. KATCo also states that the estimated distribution reliability impact for FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Electric Company’s West Penn Power region that would result from such an outage is a

CAIDI, SAIDI, and SAIFI of approximately 0.7 minutes, 4.1 minutes, and 0.02, respectively. Application ¶17 and KATCo Data Request Response No. 13.

KATCo asserts that the subject project will be designed, constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that meets or surpasses all applicable KATCo and National Electrical Safety Code minimum standards and all applicable legal requirements. Application ¶32.

KATCo states that the total estimated cost for the subject project is approximately \$7,900,000 and will be paid for by KATCo. KATCo also states that the cost to construct the Stony Springs Substation is approximately \$27,905,000. Finally, KATCo states that construction of the project is anticipated to commence in April 2026, with a proposed in-service date of June 2027. Application ¶29 and page 2 and KATCo Data Request Response Nos. 2 & 5.

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).

We agree with KATCo that the formal KATCo Letter of Notification and manner in which it was filed conforms to the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i) and (v) because the subject project will be constructed in a manner such that it does not substantially alter the existing right-of-way. 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:

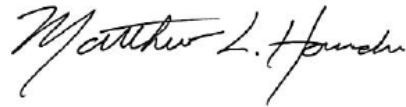
1. That the Letter of Notification of Keystone Appalachian Transmission Company for approval to reconfigure the Harrison City – Hempfield – Luxor 138 kV

Transmission Line in Hempfield and Salem Townships, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, is hereby approved.

2. That upon completion of the subject project, Keystone Appalachian Transmission Company shall file the final project cost with the Commission.

3. That upon completion of Ordering Paragraph 2, this proceeding at Docket No. A-2026-3060612 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: March 26, 2026

ORDER ENTERED: March 26, 2026