

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

Public Meeting held April 16, 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 PECO Energy Company
for approval to construct the Conowingo 220-69
230 kV Transmission Line Project located in
Plymouth and Upper Merion Townships,
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Docket Number:
A-2025-3057875

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

History of the Proceeding:

On October 7, 2025, PECO Energy Company (PECO), Utility Code 110550, filed a Letter of Notification pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i) and (v) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's (Commission) transmission line siting regulation. PECO requests approval to construct the Conowingo 220-69 230 kV Transmission Line Project located in Plymouth and Upper Merion Townships, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. For

the reasons expressed in this Order, the Letter of Notification is approved.

On January 30, 2026, PECO filed an Amendment to its Letter of Notification. The changes in the Amendment reflect PECO's withdrawal from an agreement with the Department of Energy (DOE). Under the agreement, the DOE would have reimbursed a portion of PECO's costs for the subject project. In its Amendment, PECO provides that its withdrawal from the agreement is intended to ensure responsible resource allocation and maintain operational reliability while continuing to advance grid modernization and cleaner energy initiatives.

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.

Discussion:

PECO states that the subject project involves rebuilding the Conowingo 220-69 230 kV line which is currently supported by 34 existing transmission structures and extends approximately 5.6 miles from the existing Plymouth Meeting Substation located in Plymouth Township to the existing Upper Merion Substation located in Upper Merion Township. Application ¶11 and Attachment 2, Item 8.

PECO submits that the construction of the Conowingo 220-69 230 kV Transmission Line Project is necessary due to the age and condition of the existing line. PECO also submits that the majority of the 220-69 transmission line was constructed in 1927. PECO further submits that the anticipated life of a lattice structure such as those on the 220-69 line is approximately 70 years and the anticipated service life of the conductors is approximately 62 years. Finally, PECO submits that at nearly 100 years of service the

structures, foundations, and conductors on the 220-69 230kV line are at end of life. Application, Attachment 2, Items 21 & 25.

PECO states that in 2021, it conducted an analysis of the circuits on the entire 60-mile Conowingo right-of-way to determine the condition of the static wire and conductors along the right-of-way. PECO also states that the phase conductors were tested at 12 different locations and the static wire was tested at 25 different locations. PECO further states that the study showed that 50% of the phase conductors and 72% of the static wire require replacement. Lastly, PECO states that it believes that the overall condition of the existing 220-69 transmission line conductors and static wire closely align with the overall results for the transmission facilities along the Conowingo right-of-way as all the circuits were built at the same time and according to the same standards. Application, Attachment 2, Item 27.

PECO submits that in its current state, the existing 220-69 line requires new conductors, static wires, insulators and hardware, and paint to continue long term operation due to the age of the line and its components. PECO also submits that, based on the age of the existing transmission structures, the structures likely need new bolts and other structural member replacements to remain in service. Additionally, PECO submits that it anticipates larger capacity conductors will be required for this circuit in the near future due to load growth. PECO further submits that the larger capacity conductors that PECO plans to install on the rebuilt line are heavier than the existing conductors on the current line and that the existing transmission structures do not have the structural capacity to support heavier conductors required for the anticipated increased load. PECO Data Request Response No. 1.

PECO states that to address this issue it will rebuild the 220-69 transmission line. PECO also states that the subject project includes updating obsolete relays, circuit breakers,

and switches at Plymouth Meeting Substation and Upper Merion Substation. PECO further states that by rebuilding the 220-69 line now to PECO's current design standards, PECO will avoid approximately \$20 million of maintenance costs and ensure that the 220-69 transmission line is able to meet future needs that the existing structures would not be able to support. Lastly, PECO submits that the subject project was presented at the PJM Regional Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee meeting in October 2023 and subsequently assigned supplemental project identification number s3186.1.

Application ¶12; Attachment 2, Item 8; and PECO Data Request Response No. 1.

PECO submits that the subject project includes the removal of 25 existing lattice transmission structures and that the new 230 kV lines will consist of six 959.6 kcmil 22/7 Suwannee/aluminum conductor steel supported (ACSS)/TW/HSMA3 (TYPE 16) conductors. Additionally, PECO submits that the new transmission conductors will be supported on 46 steel monopole structures including 9 existing monopole structures to remain. PECO also submits that the new structures will range from approximately 80 feet in height to approximately 190 feet in height and that existing structures range from approximately 70 feet in height to approximately 147 feet in height. PECO further submits that the transmission line rating will increase by over 50%. Lastly, PECO submits that the Conowingo 220-69 line will be located entirely within existing right-of-way and that the right-of-way is approximately 315 feet-in-width. Application ¶¶11-12 & 14; Attachment 1; and Attachment 2, Item 6.

PECO asserts that the subject 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 ¶16.

PECO states that the total estimated cost for the Conowingo 220-69 project is approximately \$50.2 million and that PECO will assume all costs. Finally, PECO states that

construction of the subject project is anticipated to commence in February 2026 with a proposed in-service date of December 2027. Application ¶¶6-7.

Disposition:

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 recondored 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 PECO that the formal PECO Letter of Notification, as amended, and manner in which it was filed conforms to the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(i) and (v) because the Conowingo 220-69 230 kV Transmission Line Project will be constructed entirely on existing right-of-way and in such a manner that the right-of-way is not substantially altered. 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,**

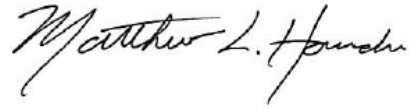
IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Letter of Notification of PECO Energy Company for approval to construct the Conowingo 220-69 230 kV Transmission Line Project, located in Plymouth and Upper Merion Townships, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, is hereby approved.

2. That upon completion of the subject project, PECO Energy Company shall file the final project cost with the Commission.

3. That upon completion of Ordering Paragraph 2, this proceeding at Docket No. A-2025-3057875 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: April 16, 2026

ORDER ENTERED: April 17, 2026