BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Application of NextEra Energy Transmission:
MidAtlantic, Inc., filed pursuant to 52 Pa. Code:
Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for approval to site : Docket No. A-2026-3060856
and construct a 500 kV transmission line:
associated with the MidAtlantic Resiliency Link:
Project located in portions of Greene County:
and Fayette County, Pennsylvania:

Application of NextEra Energy Transmission:
MidAtlantic, Inc., for All of the Necessary:
Authority, Approvals, and Certificates of Public : Docket No. A-2026-3060921
Convenience (1) to Begin to Furnish and Supply:
Electric Transmission Service in Greene County:
and Fayette County, Pennsylvania; (2) for:
Certain Affiliated Interest Agreements; and (3) :
for any Other Approvals Necessary to Complete :
the Contemplated Transactions:

PROTEST

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission), pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Sections 5.51, *et seq.*, *Kristle Krichbaum* files this Protest to the above-captioned Application(s). In support of this Protest, *Kristle Krichbaum* avers as follows:

1. **Name and contact information of the Protestant.**

Kristle Krichbaum
251 Church Street Ext.
Smithfield, PA 15478-9602
724-322-6959
kristle.krichbaum@gmail.com

2. **Name and contact information of Protestant's attorney.**

No attorney representation

3.**Set out clearly and concisely the facts from which the alleged interest or right of the Protestant can be determined.52 Pa. Code § 5.52(a)(1).**

I am a landowner of property that abuts an alternate route for the MARL Transmission line located in Nicolson Township (Smithfield, PA) in Fayette County. My fiancé and I own 30 acres under Parcel ID 2413001901. We have 2 small children; a 5-year-old daughter and a son that just turned 1 in April 2026. We have an interest in this proceeding as utility ratepayers, residents near the route, and parents concerned for our children's health.

4.**State the grounds of the Protest. 52 Pa. Code § 5.52(a)(2).**

Per 52 Pa. Code § 5.52(a)(1), I am writing as a rate payer and landowner near the MARL project filed routes to formally outline a list of reasons why the MARL line should not be approved by the PA PUC. Specifically, the following points highlight why this project is not in the best interest of Pennsylvania (PA), PA's ratepayers, and me in accordance with the grounds of the Protest. 52 Pa. Code § 5.52(a)(2) and the facts establishing the Protestant's standing to protest the Applications. 52 Pa. Code § 5.52(a)(3). This outline will concisely bring facts that support that the MARL line is not Use or Useful to PA ratepayers, and that the MARL line is Unjust and Unreasonable to PA ratepayers, and that PJM's Project needs further review:

1. Not the Least Cost Solution: Building generation near where the load is needed, or building load where generation has available capacity, is a more cost-effective option than this project.

2. Lack of Long-term Benefit: It does not benefit PA for the long term. If there is generation capacity and transmission assets readily available in PA, then the focus should be on bringing long-term, high-paying jobs and economic growth to PA.

3. Economic and Aesthetic Harm: This project marks the beginning of a trend that will riddle PA with transmission lines, harming the viewshed for tourism without providing significant local jobs or economic growth. PA tourism and people enjoying PA's rural areas and trails are the main basis of the local PA economy. The MARL line can and will negatively impact our tourism economy.

4. Reliability Concerns: Claims regarding PA's grid reliability have been exaggerated to represent PJM as a whole when it is in fact PJM zones outside of PA that have a power need that was hurt by PJM's approval of generator retirements. Furthermore, increased transmission line connectivity to Virginia makes it more likely that PA could face load shedding emergency actions to meet the needs of states with unsustainable energy policies since the MARL project will create a new "transmission highway" to carry the load from other states, to other states, thru PA. Load shedding should be done at the site of the event to control transmission issues, rather than impacting states like PA that have maintained reliable generation. Currently, load shedding PA to keep Virginia powered is not an option due to the transmission bottleneck of the Hatfield-Black Oak line's rated capacity limits. MARL will be the beginning of opening up the possibility of impacting PA's electric reliability that does not exist today. This load shed development is a big concern when one Googles the PJM emergency actions over the past year.

5. Flow of Energy: Since energy flows from source (generation) to sink (load need), MARL will

primarily pull power from both PA and from non PA states, located to PA's west, rather than help PA. Thus, this alleged MARL line benefit was over-stated as a half-truth reliability benefit that applies to PJM zones outside of PA, primarily the Dominion (Virginia) Zone. MARL cannot, by the laws of physics and the current mind boggling lack of reliable generation in Virginia that was once present, flow power from MARL's eastern proposed point in Virginia to PA. Plus, if the MARL line is approved and built, there will be less reason for generation to site, re-site, or restart in or near Virginia, which will increase the other PJM zone rate payers' market and congestion costs, which includes the PJM allocated PA rate payers' costs.

6. Unfair Cost Allocation: PJM's cost allocation and transmission planning are unjust and unreasonable to PA ratepayers and contrary to 18 CFR 35 and the PJM tariff, causing unfair congestion and higher market rates that are passed on to the PA rate payers. This not only includes the market-based rates, but also the rate payer cost allocations of line projects like MARL to build, maintain, and the energy losses over distance.

7. Impact on Landowners: The project will island homes and properties, negatively impacting landowners physically, monetarily in the form of reduced property values, and potential negative health impacts due to the increased Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) to us and our very young children.

8. Lack of State Alignment within the PJM region: There is a lack of engagement from PJM with states to align the transmission process and minimize rate increases. States with different energy policies should be responsible for the impacts of those policies rather than negatively affecting generation capacity surplus PJM states like PA. PJM manages parts of their transmission process by PJM Zones. When PJM was a smaller entity, representing fewer states and utilities, PJM overall and zonal approach may have been more effective. However, now that PJM consists of many more states and has approved many PJM generator retirements without replacements, PJM may need to adjust their tariff administration to assess the reliability of the PJM zones to better align with the PJM state energy policies, PJM's cost allocation methodology and PJM's 18 CFR 35 and PJM tariff requirements to manage congestion and grid reliability.

9. Energy Loss Costs: Wheeling Power across long transmission lines across PJM's large area leads to higher costs due to energy losses and congestion, which are passed on to all PJM jurisdictional ratepayers. The least cost solution at this point is never long transmission lines, but generation connections near the load need.

10. Premature PJM Generator Retirement Approval: It is disappointing to see PJM approve generator closures before retired capacity could be replaced with existing transmission assets to serve needed load capacity, especially in the areas that PJM is trying to serve with the MARL line project It feel like something was missed by PJM that has caused a PJM created load need in Virginia that is over and above the datacenter boom. If generators want to retire, so be it, but before they do, PJM needs to have a retirement condition to have replacement generation near that transmission asset location to maintain those existing transmission assets as use and useful. PJM did not.

11. Lack of Transparency: Projects like MARL could be avoided if PJM maintained a heat map

to show customers the least-cost transmission areas to utilize the existing system effectively. In addition, not all landowners in the MARL study area were sent the initial project notification or the second public project sessions notification, when their properties were within a mile or two of the initial project routes. This travesty was realized through local community initiated forums. As of this letter, the community rate payers are just learning about the MARL project at this late hour. This is unacceptable. And finally, most PA residents were unaware of the MARL project until 2025 but found PJM documentation from 2022. There needs to be a mechanism that provides potential project transparency to potential and unknowing stakeholders in the PJM process to make the most just and reasonable and use and useful outcome.

12. Inefficient Infrastructure: MARL will essentially be an expensive "extension cord" to funnel power from states west of PA to the east and southeast of PA, neither of which is for PA's long-term benefit. It is unjust and unreasonable for PA to pay for the construction and maintenance of assets that are not the least-cost solution for the MARL project's stated needs, let alone the burden the adverse impacts to their land and livelihoods. PJM has a generation problem, not a transmission problem, which has also been mentioned by former FERC Commissioner Mark Christie.

5.**Set forth the facts establishing the Protestant's standing to protest the Applications. 52 Pa. Code § 5.52(a)(3).**

I am concerned that the utility company's proposals for the locations of the lines will increase my utility rates, harm my land, decrease my property value, pose an unreasonable danger to health and safety to me and my children, and/or cause financial harm to any future business I would start. In this regard, the PUC must make the following findings relating to the transmission facilities: (1) that there is a need for it; (2) that it will not create an unreasonable risk of danger to the health and safety of the public; (3) That it is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations providing for the protection of the natural resources of this Commonwealth; and (4) That it will have minimum adverse environmental impact, considering the electric power needs of the public, the state of available technology and the available alternatives. 52 Pa. Code Section 57.76(a)]

6. **Service on Protestant**

For the purposes of receiving communications from the Commission and from the parties to this proceeding regarding the intervention, if the intervention is granted, *Kristle Krichbaum* agrees to:

[X] Open and use a Commission eFiling account and receive eService

[ ] Receive all documents by email at: [email]

** Petitioner acknowledges documents cannot be filed via email.

[ ] Receive all documents by First Class Mail at the above-listed address

7.**Verification and Signature**

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Section 1.36, I, [*Print Name of Protestant*] hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. §4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

8. **Relief Requested**

WHEREFORE, *Kristle Krichbaum* respectfully requests that the Public Utility Commission *not approve the Applications and for the Commission to investigate and hold full hearings regarding the filings.*

9. **Signature and Date**

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTLE KRICHBAUM Digitally signed by KRISTLE KRICHBAUM Date: 2026.04.29 15:59:40 -04'00'

Kristle Krichbaum

Dated: April 29, 2026

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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I hereby certify that I have this day filed electronically on the Commission's electronic filing system and served a true copy of the foregoing Protest upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below.

Dated: April 29, 2026

SERVICE BY E-MAIL

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KRISTLE KRICHBAUM

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