

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



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May 7, 2026

Via Electronic Filing

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Letter of Notification of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation filed pursuant to 52 PA. Code Chapter 57 with respect to the approval to build approximately 1.1 miles of new parallel double circuit 230 kV transmission taps that are needed to connect the existing Susquehanna-Harwood #1 & #2 transmission lines on the New Tomhicken 230 kV switchyard that are respectively located in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania; Docket No. A-2025-3059443;

Application of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for Approval to (1) Bifurcate and Rebuild 4.4 Miles of the Existing Sunbury-Susquehanna #1 230 kV Transmission Line; (2) Construct 0.9 Miles of New Transmission Line Tap for Future 230 kV Double-Circuit Operation; (3) Raise Approximately 0.5 Miles of the Sunbury-Susquehanna 500 kV Transmission Line; and (4) Construct 11.2 Miles of New Double-Circuit 230 kV Transmission Line for Future Double-Circuit 500 kV Capacity, Located in Black Creek, Hazle, Hollenback, Nescopeck, and Sugarloaf Townships in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania; Docket No. A-2026-3061547;

Petition of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation For Findings That A Structure To Shelter Electrical And Control Equipment At The Proposed Nescopeck Switchyard In Nescopeck Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania Is Reasonably Necessary For The Convenience Or Welfare Of The Public; Docket No. P-2026-3061609; and,

Application of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Under 15 Pa.C.S. § 1511(c) For A Finding And Determination That The Service To Be Furnished By The Applicant Through Its Proposed Exercise Of The Power Of Eminent Domain To Acquire Certain Portions Of Lands in Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania For The Sugarloaf 500/230 kV Transmission Line Associated With The Proposed Sugarloaf 500/230 kV Transmission Line Project Is Necessary Or Proper For The Service,

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
May 7, 2026
Page 2

Accommodation, Convenience, Or Safety Of The Public; Docket Nos. A-2026-3061549 *et al.*

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Attached for electronic filing, please find the Motion for Consolidation of Dockets A-2025-3059443 and A-2026-3061547 of the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) in this proceeding.

Copies have been served on the parties as indicated on the enclosed Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jacob Guthrie
Jacob Guthrie, Esq.
Assistant Consumer Advocate
PA Attorney I.D. # 334367
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Enclosures

cc: Administrative Law Judge Emily A. Farren (Via Email Only: efarren@pa.gov)
Administrative Law Judge Erin L. Gannon (Via Email Only: egannon@pa.gov)
Administrative Law Judge John M. Coogan (Via Email Only: jcoogan@pa.gov)
Administrative Law Judge Steven K. Haas (Via Email Only: sthaas@pa.gov)
Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Letter of Notification of PPL Electric :
Utilities Corporation filed pursuant to 52 :
PA Code Chapter 57 with respect to the :
approval to build approximately 1.1 miles : Docket No. A-2025-3059443
of new parallel double circuit 230 kV :
transmission taps that are needed to :
connect the existing Susquehanna :
Harwood #1 & #2 transmission lines on the :
New Tomhicken 230 kV switchyard that :
are respectively located in Luzerne County, :
Pennsylvania :

Application of PPL Electric Utilities :
Corporation, Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code :
Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for Approval to :
(1) Bifurcate and Rebuild 4.4 Miles of the : Docket No. A-2026-3061547
Existing Sunbury-Susquehanna #1 230 kV :
Transmission Line; (2) Construct 0.9 Miles :
of New Transmission Line Tap for Future :
230 kV Double-Circuit Operation; (3) :
Raise Approximately 0.5 Miles of the :
Sunbury-Susquehanna 500 kV :
Transmission Line; and (4) Construct 11.2 :
Miles of New Double-Circuit 230 kV :
Transmission Line for Future Double- :
Circuit 500 kV Capacity, Located in Black :
Creek, Hazle, Hollenback, Nescopeck, and :
Sugarloaf Townships in Luzerne County, :
Pennsylvania :

Petition of PPL Electric Utilities :
Corporation For Findings That A Structure :
To Shelter Electrical And Control :
Equipment At The Proposed Nescopeck : Docket No. P-2026-3061609
Switchyard In Nescopeck Township, :
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania Is :
Reasonably Necessary For The :
Convenience Or Welfare Of The Public :

Application of PPL Electric Utilities :
Corporation Under 15 Pa.C.S. § 1511(c) :
For A Finding And Determination That :
The Service To Be Furnished By The : Docket Nos. A-2026-3061549 *et al.*
Applicant Through Its Proposed Exercise :

Of The Power Of Eminent Domain To :
Acquire Certain Portions Of Lands in :
Hazle Township, Luzerne County, :
Pennsylvania For The Sugarloaf 500/230 :
kV Transmission Line Associated With :
The Proposed Sugarloaf 500/230 kV :
Transmission Line Project Is Necessary Or :
Proper For The Service, Accommodation, :
Convenience, Or Safety Of The Public :
:

I hereby certify that I have this day filed electronically on the Commission's electronic filing system and served a true copy of the following document, the Motion for Consolidation of Dockets A-2025-3059443 and A-2026-3061547 of the Office of Consumer Advocate, 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 this 7th day of May 2026.

SERVICE BY E-MAIL ONLY

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Dated: May 7, 2026

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BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Letter of Notification of PPL Electric :
Utilities Corporation filed pursuant to :
52 PA Code Chapter 57 with respect to :
the approval to build approximately 1.1 : Docket No. A-2025-3059443
miles of new parallel double circuit 230 :
kV transmission taps that are needed to :
connect the existing Susquehanna- :
Harwood #1 & #2 transmission lines on :
the New Tomhicken 230 kV switchyard :
that are respectively located in Luzerne :
County, Pennsylvania :

Application of PPL Electric Utilities :
Corporation, Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. :
Code Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for :
Approval to (1) Bifurcate and Rebuild : Docket No. A-2026-3061547
4.4 Miles of the Existing Sunbury- :
Susquehanna #1 230 kV Transmission :
Line; (2) Construct 0.9 Miles of New :
Transmission Line Tap for Future 230 :
kV Double-Circuit Operation; (3) Raise :
Approximately 0.5 Miles of the :
Sunbury-Susquehanna 500 kV :
Transmission Line; and (4) Construct :
11.2 Miles of New Double-Circuit 230 :
kV Transmission Line for Future :
Double-Circuit 500 kV Capacity, :
Located in Black Creek, Hazle, :
Hollenback, Nescopeck, and Sugarloaf :
Townships in Luzerne County, :
Pennsylvania :

Petition of PPL Electric Utilities :
Corporation For Findings That A :
Structure To Shelter Electrical And :
Control Equipment At The Proposed : Docket No. P-2026-3061609
Nescopeck Switchyard In Nescopeck :
Township, Luzerne County, :
Pennsylvania Is Reasonably Necessary :
For The Convenience Or Welfare Of :
The Public :

Application of PPL Electric Utilities :
Corporation Under 15 Pa.C.S. § :
1511(c) For A Finding And :
Determination That The Service To Be : Docket Nos. A-2026-3061549 *et al*
Furnished By The Applicant Through :
Its Proposed Exercise Of The Power Of :
Eminent Domain To Acquire Certain :
Portions Of Lands in Hazle Township, :
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania For The :
Sugarloaf 500/230 kV Transmission :
Line Associated With The Proposed :
Sugarloaf 500/230 kV Transmission :
Line Project Is Necessary Or Proper For :
The Service, Accommodation, :
Convenience, Or Safety Of The Public

MOTION FOR CONSOLIDATION OF
DOCKETS A-2025-3059443 AND A-2026-3061547
OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

AND NOW, before Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) Emily A. Farren, Erin L. Gannon, John M. Coogan, and Steven K. Haas, the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) files this Motion for Consolidation of Dockets A-2025-3059443 and A-2026-3061547 (Motion), pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Section 5.81. 52 Pa. Code Section 5.81. In this Motion, the OCA requests that the ALJs enter an order consolidating the above-captioned dockets for adjudication and disposition. Consolidation will aid the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) in resolving common questions of law and fact, reduce public confusion regarding the two proceedings, and promote judicial economy by permitting the ALJs to address these common issues of law and fact in a single proceeding. In support thereof, the OCA avers as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

On December 19, 2025, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL or Company) filed a Letter of Notification (LON) with the Commission, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Section 57.72(d)(1)(iii) and (vi), to build approximately 1.1 miles of new parallel double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission taps that PPL claims are needed to connect the existing Susquehanna-Harwood #1 & #2 230 kV Transmission Lines to the new Tomhicken 230 kV Switchyard (Phase 1 LON or Phase 1). Phase 1 also includes the construction of two new 0.1-mile-long 230 kV transmission lines from the Tomhicken 230 kV Switchyard to a new customer-owned 230-34 kV substation. Phase 1 is located in Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The Commission docketed the Phase 1 LON at A-2025-3059443.

According to PPL, it “will carry out the projects necessary to serve this Customer’s load request in two separate phases. Phase 1, subject to this [LON], is needed to connect the Customer requesting transmission-level service.” Phase 1 LON ¶ 23. Further:

Phase 2 will be needed to address the Customer’s future electrical needs and demands, as well as PPL Electric’s system needs. Phase 2 will be submitted in a subsequent filing, which PPL Electric anticipates may necessitate a full siting application. PPL Electric notes that the phases are being submitted separately because only the first phase is required to meet the Customer’s in-service request; Phase 2 will not be necessary until the Customer’s load increases at a future date.

Phase 1 LON ¶ 24.

On December 30, 2025, the OCA filed a Notice of Intervention and Public Statement regarding the Phase 1 LON. On January 7, 2026, the OCA filed a Protest.

On March 12, 2026, Erika Cook filed a Protest to the Phase 1 LON. On March 13, 2026, John Zola filed a Protest to the Phase 1 LON.

On March 18, 2026, ALJs Gannon and Coogan convened a Prehearing Conference regarding the Phase 1 LON, wherein the ALJs established a procedural schedule for litigation of the Phase 1 LON, including the submission of direct testimony by PPL and the other parties, public input hearings, rebuttal testimony, surrebuttal testimony, rejoinder testimony, evidentiary hearings, and main and reply briefs.

On March 27, 2026, the OCA served its Sets 1 and 2 of Interrogatories to PPL regarding the Phase 1 LON.

On April 2, 2026, PPL filed Preliminary Objections to the Protests of Ms. Cook and Mr. Zola to the Phase 1 LON, requesting that the Protests of Ms. Cook and Mr. Zola be dismissed. On April 6, 2026, Ms. Cook and Mr. Zola filed Answers to PPL's Preliminary Objections.

Also on April 6, 2026, PPL filed written objections to several questions and sub-questions within the OCA Sets 1 and 2 of Interrogatories.

On April 7, 2026, PPL submitted a transmission line siting application requesting approval to (1) bifurcate and rebuild 4.4 miles of the existing Sunbury-Susquehanna #1 230 kV transmission line; (2) construct 0.9 miles of new transmission line tap for future 230 kV double-circuit operation; (3) raise approximately 0.5 miles of the Sunbury-Susquehanna 500 kV transmission line; and (4) construct 11.2 miles of new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line for future double-circuit 500 kV capacity, located in Black Creek, Hazle, Hollenback, Nescopeck, and Sugarloaf Townships in Luzerne County,

Pennsylvania (Phase 2 Application). The Phase 2 Application is docketed at A-2026-3061547 and is associated with a number of dockets which include applications for Commission authorization for PPL to exercise eminent domain and a zoning petition.¹ In the Phase 2 Application, PPL requested that the Application, as well as the associated condemnation application and zoning petition dockets be consolidated for purposes of hearings and, if necessary, decision. Phase 2 Application ¶ 138.

The Phase 2 Application references the Phase 1 LON in numerous instances, wherein the Phase 1 LON is identified by the docket number provided above. Phase 2 Application at n. 1, 2, 5; Phase 2 Application St. 1 at n. 1, 2, 8; Phase 2 Application St. 2 at n. 1; Phase 2 Application St. 3 at n. 1; Phase 2 Application Attach. 2 at n. 1, 10; Phase 2 Application Attach. 16 at n. 1. As a result, the transmission line siting project identified in the Phase 1 LON as “Phase 2” is that for which PPL is requesting siting approval in the Phase 2 Application.

On April 13, 2026, the OCA filed an Answer to PPL’s Preliminary Objections regarding the Phase 1 LON, which referenced the Phase 2 Application.

On April 14, 2026, the ALJs entered an Order denying PPL’s Preliminary Objections.

¹ These docket numbers include: P-2026-3061609, A-2026-3061549, A-2026-3061550, A-2026-3061551, A-2026-3061552, A-2026-3061553, A-2026-3061554, A-2026-3061555, A-2026-3061556, A-2026-3061557, A-2026-3061560, A-2026-3061561, A-2026-3061562, A-2026-3061564, A-2026-3061566, A-2026-3061567, A-2026-3061568, A-2026-3061569, A-2026-3061570, A-2026-3061571, A-2026-3061572, A-2026-3061573, A-2026-3061576, A-2026-3061577, A-2026-3061578, A-2026-3061579, A-2026-3061581, A-2026-3061582, A-2026-3061583, A-2026-3061584, A-2026-3061585.

On April 16, 2026, the OCA filed a Motion to Dismiss Objections and Compel Answers to the objected-to questions in OCA Sets 1 and 2 of interrogatories regarding the Phase 1 LON. On April 21, 2026, PPL provided responses to certain questions in OCA Sets 1 and 2 of interrogatories. On April 22, 2026, PPL submitted an answer to the OCA's Motion to Dismiss Objections and Compel Answers.

On April 22, 2026, the Commission issued a Secretarial Letter at the Phase 2 Application docket which enclosed (1) a Notice to be Published, providing that the Phase 2 Application and associated applications and petition would be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on May 2, 2026, and establishing a deadline for submission of protests and petitions to intervene of July 3, 2026, and (2) a Telephonic Prehearing Conference Notice, indicating that ALJs Haas and Farren are presiding over the Phase 2 Application proceeding and setting a telephonic prehearing conference date of July 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

On April 29, 2026, ALJs Coogan and Gannon issued an order granting the OCA's Motion to Dismiss Objections and Compel Answers regarding PPL's objections in the Phase 1 LON proceeding, requiring PPL to respond to the objected-to questions on or before May 5, 2026.

On May 5, 2026, a Public Input Hearing Notice for the Phase 1 LON was issued, scheduling two public input hearings, one afternoon and one evening, on June 30, 2026, in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

On May 7, 2027, the OCA submitted a Protest and Public Statement to the Phase 2 Application.

The OCA now submits this Motion for Consolidation of the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application proceedings and does not object to further consolidation with the associated dockets for which PPL indicated it will request consolidation with the Phase 2 Application. Phase 2 Application ¶ 138.

II. LEGAL STANDARDS

Pursuant to Section 5.81 of the Commission’s regulations, “[t]he Commission or presiding officer, with or without motion, may order proceedings involving a common question of law or fact to be consolidated. The Commission or presiding officer may make orders concerning the conduct of the proceeding as may avoid unnecessary costs or delay.” 52 Pa. Code § 5.81. Consolidation is subject to the discretion of the Commission or presiding officers. 66 Pa. C.S. § 331(d). Proceedings can be consolidated for purposes of adjudication, hearing, and briefing. *Re Middletown Taxi Co.*, 50 Pa. PUC 263 (1976); *City of York v. York Tel. and Telegraph Co.*, 43 Pa. PUC 240 (1967); *Clepper Farms, Inc. v. Grantham Water Co.*, 41 Pa. PUC 749 (1965). The Commission has previously declined to grant consolidation where there is no clear relationship between the two matters, the parties and burdens of proof involved are different, and where consolidation “would detrimentally prejudice the [initiating party] and would confuse and obscure the issues” involved. *Dopp v. Williamsburg Borough Dept. of Water and Sewer*, 59 PA PUC 25 (1984). The OCA, as the party moving for consolidation, bears the burden of proof to establish that the instant matters satisfy the requirements for consolidation. 66 Pa. C.S. § 332(a).

While consolidation requires only that a common question of law or fact exists, the Commission has also enunciated additional considerations that are evaluated in ruling on a motion for consolidation:

1. Will the presence of additional issues cloud a determination of the common issues?
2. Will consolidation result in reduced costs of litigation and decision-making for the parties and the Commission?
3. Do issues in one proceeding go to the heart of an issue in the other proceeding?
4. Will consolidation unduly protract the hearing, or produce a disorderly and unwieldy record?
5. Will different statutory and legal issues be involved?
6. Does the party with the burden of proof differ in the proceedings?
7. Will consolidation unduly delay the resolution of one of the proceedings?
8. Will supporting data in both proceedings be repetitive?

Fergusson v. Aqua Pa. Wastewater Inc., Docket Nos. C-2023-3043108 *et al* (Order Consolidating Complaints issued Nov. 21, 2023) at 2-3 (citing *Applications of Philadelphia Electric Co.*, 43 Pa. PUC 781 (1968); *Pa. PUC v. Bell Tel. Co. of Pa.*, 46 Pa. PUC 568 (1973); *Pa. PUC v. Butler Twp. Water Co.*, 52 Pa. PUC 442 (1978)) (*Fergusson*).

As the ALJ in *Fergusson* stated: “No single consideration, nor group of these considerations, is dispositive of a consolidation, any more so than the presence of a common question of law or fact. Rather, the evaluation of all of them and a balancing of those favoring and disfavoring consolidation is required.” *Id.*

The consolidation of the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application for purposes of hearing, briefing, and adjudication is advantageous to the proceedings and in the public interest and should be granted for the reasons set forth in full below.

III. MOTION FOR CONSOLIDATION

The common questions of law between the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application are clear. The same Commission regulations govern the conduct of both the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application proceedings. 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71-57.77. This includes the evidence which the Commission must accept and consider, among other relevant considerations. 52 Pa. Code § 57.75. Both the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application are subject to the same legal standards for review and approval, requiring a finding of: a need for the transmission lines,² an absence of unreasonable risk of danger to the health and

² Given that the entirety of the project identified in Phase 1 LON and the Phase 2 Application were supplemental projects before PJM, there is no conflict preemption under *Transource Pa., LLC v. DeFrank*, 156 F.4th 351 (3d Cir. 2025), affirming *Transource Pa., LLC v. DeFrank*, 705 F. Supp. 3d 266 (M.D. Pa. 2023) (*Transource*). Accordingly, the Commission can make a determination of need that is different from the public utility's need determination. PJM's current tariff authority to review the need, prudence and cost-effectiveness of transmission expansion extends only to transmission projects needed to resolve region-wide system reliability violations based on PJM criteria, or for projects needed to meet state public policy goals such as renewable portfolio standards. PJM Operating Agreement, Sch. 6, § 1.5.6(n). The projects subject to PJM Board oversight and approval are often called regional baseline projects, regional network upgrades or Public Policy Projects. Local projects, identified as "Supplemental Projects" in PJM's Operating Agreement and Tariff, are included in the RTEP, but are only reviewed by PJM for the potential negative impact they might have on the regional system. PJM Operating Agreement, Sch. 6, § 1.5.6(n). Indeed, Section 1.5.6(n) specifically states:

Certain Regional RTEP Project(s) and Subregional RTEP Project(s) may not be required for compliance with the following PJM criteria: system reliability, market efficiency or operational performance, pursuant to a determination by the Office of the Interconnection. *These Supplemental Projects shall be separately identified in the RTEP and are not subject to approval by the PJM Board.*

safety of the public, compliance with statutes and regulations regarding the protection of the Commonwealth's natural resources, and a minimal adverse environmental impact in light of the need demonstrated and available alternatives. 66 Pa. C.S. § 1501; 52 Pa. Code § 57.76(a). In each proceeding, PPL bears the burden of proof, as the party requesting relief from the Commission. 66 Pa. C.S. § 332(a).

The common questions of fact are also clear. The Phase 1 LON requests authorization to construct the facilities required to interconnect a large load, data center customer. Phase 1 LON ¶ 10. The Phase 2 Application requests authorization to construct the facilities required to serve that same large load, data center customer over the next several years. Phase 2 Application ¶¶ 21, 24. While PPL pleads that other data center customer interconnections require the facilities proposed in the Phase 2 Application, the load growth of the data center customer interconnecting to the Phase 1 LON facilities is sufficient alone to require the Phase 2 facilities to avoid reliability violations. Phase 1 LON ¶ 24 (“Phase 2 will be needed to address the Customer’s future electrical needs and demands, as well as PPL Electric’s system needs”); Phase 2 Application ¶¶ 25-26.

PPL proposed the transmission lines identified in Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application as part of the same Supplemental Project to the PJM Interconnection, LLC

Id. (emphasis added). The important point here is that, unlike regional RTEP projects, Supplemental Projects are not approved by the PJM Board. They are not reviewed by PJM for their need, prudence or their cost-effectiveness and cost efficiency for utility consumers. *Id.*; see also PJM Operating Agreement, Sch. 6, § 1.6(a).

(PJM)³ Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee (TEAC)⁴. Specifically, PPL states that both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 transmission lines are part of single PJM Supplemental Project Number S3528, meaning that the proposed lines were studied by PJM as a single “Project” under its “do no harm” analysis as part and parcel of meeting the interconnecting customer’s service needs. Phase 1 LON ¶ 33; Phase 2 Application ¶ 19. Both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 transmission lines are included as a singular need and a singular solution in PPL’s Local Plan⁵ – an excerpt of which is attached to this Motion as **Exhibit A** – which PPL identified as associated with the interconnection of a singular customer’s facilities. As a result, from the perspective of the entity responsible for planning and operating the regional transmission grid, the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application are one project and will be referred to herein as the Project.

If the Phase 1 LON is approved, then the need for the Phase 2 Application ripens: “The additional paths from the Susquehanna 230 kV Switchyard to the Tomhicken 230 kV

³ PJM is the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) which operates the interstate transmission grid for all or parts of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, inclusive of PPL’s service territory.

⁴ The TEAC reviews transmission line projects within the PJM region that operate at or above 230 kV, including both regional projects and local, Supplemental Projects. PJM Manual 14B § 1.2 (Dec. 17, 2025), available at: <https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/documents/manuals/m14b.pdf>; see also PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) Attach. M-3 § (c), available at: <https://agreements.pjm.com/oatt/31552> (describing the procedures for review of, *inter alia*, local, Supplemental Projects).

⁵ Under the PJM Operating Agreement (OA), a “Local Plan” includes “Supplemental Projects as identified by the Transmission Owners within their zone and Subregional RTEP projects developed to comply with all applicable reliability criteria, including Transmission Owners’ planning criteria or based on market efficiency analysis and in consideration of Public Policy Requirements.” PJM OA § 1. Local Plans are an integrated part of PJM’s regional transmission planning process. PJM OA §§ 1.5.4, 1.5.8(b), available at: <https://agreements.pjm.com/oa/4777>.

Switchyard and Harwood 230-69 kV Substation [as part of the Phase 2 Application] will prevent the thermal overload of the Susquehanna-Tomhicken #1 & #2 230 kV and Tomhicken-Harwood #1 & #2 230 kV lines [as part of the Phase 1 LON].” Phase 1 LON, Attach. 1 at 9. If the Phase 1 LON is not approved, then the facilities, as proposed in the Phase 2 Application, cannot be constructed. Phase 2 Application ¶¶ 36-37 (describing the Sugarloaf line as having a termination point at the Tomhicken switchyard, which is the subject of the Phase 1 LON). Rather, PPL would need to redesign the transmission line proposed in the Phase 2 Application. Thus, Phase 2 is contingent upon and subject to Phase 1 being approved and constructed.

Importantly, the Project raises significant reliability concerns in PPL’s service territory. *See Transource Pa. LLC v. Pa. Pub. Util. Comm’n*, 278 A.3d 942, 966 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2022) (where a utility claims necessity for a transmission line project, the Commission can properly investigate whether the project would have the opposite effect as claimed).⁶ This is, in part, because of the significant data center load growth which PPL will interconnect to the Project facilities. Phase 2 Application ¶ 22 (“Additional customers have also applied for service in the Hazleton area with a combined requested load of over 5,000 MW by 2033.”). It is unclear whether there are sufficient generation resources to provide the energy needed to serve this additional load⁷ and, as a result, whether there will

⁶ See supra n. 2. Because the transmission lines proposed in the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application are Supplemental Projects, the Commission has the authority to determine whether there is a need for the proposed lines.

⁷ See *2027/2028 Base Residual Auction Reserve Target Shortfall Report*, PJM (Feb. 9, 2026), available at: <https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/markets-ops/rpm/rpm-auction-info/2027-2028/2027-2028-bra-reserve-target-shortfall-report.pdf>. This report provides an overview as to

be broader reliability impacts in PPL’s service territory if the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Applications are approved. 66 Pa. C.S. § 2803 (defining “reliability” to include “‘adequacy’ mean[ing] the provision of sufficient generation, transmission and distribution capacity so as to supply the aggregate electric power and energy requirements of consumers...”). Because the Project includes the interconnection of at least one large load, data center customer, the reliability concerns associated with resource adequacy are implicated in both proceedings, and must be investigated further.

Because of the interrelation between Phases 1 and 2 of the Project, the unique facets of each Phase will not cloud the Commission’s ability to reach determinations on the common issues. Rather, to the extent that separate factual analyses and determinations must be made between the two Phases, they are sufficiently distinct so as to avoid conflicting with the resolution of the core concerns of the Project. These separate facts may include determinations as to the environmental impact of the siting of the transmission facilities, 52 Pa. Code Section 57.75(e)(3), though the remaining matters upon which the Commission must take evidence, *inter alia*, are common between the two Phases. 52 Pa. Code § 57.75(e).

Further, PPL’s communications to landowners and community members in the affected areas for the Projects also described both Phases of the Project as a single proposal. Attached to this Motion as **Exhibit B** are documents produced by PPL in the course of

how, during the 2027/2028 delivery year, insufficient generating resources were procured during PJM’s capacity auction to ensure that customers in the PJM region will experience service that is as reliable as PJM targets.

discovery which are communication materials regarding Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 of the Project.⁸ In a letter to landowners near the proposed Project, PPL states that it “plans to build a new 500 kV transmission line from the proposed Nescopeck Switchyard, south of the Susquehanna River, in Nescopeck Township, to the proposed Tomhicken Switchyard, south of Tomhicken Road, and the existing Harwood Substation, west of Interstate-81 (I-81), in Hazle Township, Luzerne County.” Motion Exh. B at 2. In a town hall presentation regarding the Project, PPL indicated that it would submit an application with the Commission in 2025, but did not identify that there would be separate applications, though the timeline does indicate that it is preliminary and subject to change. Motion Exh. B at 14. In a one-page fact sheet on the Project, PPL stated that it is “planning to build approximately 12 miles of new 500 kV transmission line as well as two new switchyards in Luzerne County” and included a map showing both the Nescopeck (Phase 2) and Tomhicken (Phase 1) switchyards as “proposed.” Motion Exh. B at 15. PPL does not distinguish, in these public-facing communication materials, between Phases 1 and 2; rather, the two phases are treated as a single Project.

Having separate proceedings for the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application has a high likelihood, as a result, of creating public confusion and uncertainty in the record about which portion of the Project members of the public are referring to when submitting protests, comments, or public input hearing testimony. For example, in its Preliminary

⁸ The OCA notes that only three of the nine documents produced as attachments to the discovery response provided by PPL are included in Exhibit B. The remaining six documents are duplicative of the three included or otherwise provided information that is less relevant to the instant Motion.

Objections seeking dismissal of the Protests of Erika Cook and John Zola in the Phase 1 LON proceeding, PPL argued that “[t]o the extent that the Protestant is alleging that a subsequent or different project that is not the subject of the instant Letter of Notification will adversely affect them as a landowner, the Protest is legally insufficient.” PPL POs ¶¶ 32-34. The Protests of Erika Cook and John Zola to the Phase 1 LON do not relate to any other project, facilities, or proceeding; however, Ms. Cook and Mr. Zola are landowners with property subject to pending applications for the exercise of the power of eminent domain associated with the Phase 2 Application.⁹ As a result, there appears to have already been confusion regarding the interrelation between Phases 1 and 2 of the Project.

Because the Phase 1 LON and the Phase 2 Application are part of the same Project with overlapping needs, including the needs related to the interconnection and service of the identified interconnecting Customer, it is likely that there will be duplicative evidence presented and produced through discovery in the two proceedings. Consolidation will reduce the administrative burden on the presiding officers to take, and the parties to produce, repetitive evidence. For example, PPL makes the same claims regarding the benefits of the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application with respect to Pennsylvania’s economic development and the impact of additional load on PPL’s transmission rates. *Compare* Phase 1 LON ¶ 11 *with* Phase 2 Application ¶ 28. Additionally, the PJM planning documents and customer communication materials, such as those identified in Exhibits A

⁹ Ms. Cook’s name is included in the caption for the eminent domain proceeding at Docket No. A-2026-3061557. Mr. Zola’s name is included in the caption for the eminent domain proceeding at Docket Nos. A-2026-3061555, A-2026-3061579.

and B, will be the subject of discovery in both proceedings and may become part of the evidentiary record in both proceedings because these documents treat the Project without respect to the individual phases. The factual overlap between the two proceedings will result in an unnecessarily duplicative evidentiary record.

As mentioned *supra*, a procedural schedule has been adopted for the Phase 1 LON. As of the time that this Motion is filed, the first litigation deadline of PPL's direct testimony has not yet occurred, which is due to be served on May 13, 2026. Further, PPL indicated that Joseph Lookup will be providing its direct testimony in the Phase 1 LON proceeding. Phase 1 LON, PPL Prehearing Memorandum ¶ 22. Mr. Lookup also provided direct testimony on behalf of PPL in the Phase 2 Application, as PPL Statement 1, which was submitted with the Phase 2 Application. As a result, PPL will not incur further expense or burden to retain additional witnesses should these proceedings be consolidated.

At the time that PPL serves its direct testimony in the Phase 1 LON proceeding, both the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application cases will be awaiting the next procedural deadlines, convening public input hearings and the submission of other parties' direct testimony. While a notice has been issued for the Phase 1 LON public input hearings, providing that the Phase 1 LON public input hearings will be held on June 30, 2026, in Hazleton, PA, the OCA submits that consolidation would benefit the scheduled public input hearings if they cannot be re-scheduled. Rather, the scheduled Phase 1 LON public input hearings will be improved by consolidation, as consolidation will avoid the potential for public confusion between the Phase 1 LON and Phase 2 Application when public input hearing testimony is taken. Consolidation will reduce the possibility of duplicative

testimony, objections to public input witnesses' testimony as to scope and relevance, improve public accessibility to the scheduled public input hearings, and is in the public interest. To the extent that the Phase 1 LON public input hearings can be rescheduled, consolidation of the public input hearings with those scheduled for the Phase 2 Application will promote further efficiency.

While consolidation of the two proceedings may delay PPL's ability to interconnect the identified Customer by delaying an adjudication on the Phase 1 LON, such delay can be addressed through the established litigation schedule in the consolidated proceedings and is not unreasonable. Specifically, the interconnecting Customer has requested an in-service date of March 2028. Phase 2 Application ¶ 21 *but see* Phase 1 LON ¶ 10 (providing an in-service date of December 15, 2026). Based on PPL's initial proposal in the Phase 1 LON as to the amount of time required for construction prior to the customer's in-service date, the OCA submits that the parties will have adequate time to resolve the consolidated proceeding before PPL must begin construction on the Phase 1 LON facilities to support the Customer's requested in-service date, and will work with PPL and the other parties to establish a litigation schedule consistent with the same. Further, to the extent that resolution of the consolidated proceeding requires a delay for the customer's in-service date, such delay would be minor and is the result of a more fulsome analysis into the needs and benefits of the Project with a reduced burden on the Commission, ALJs, and parties in conducting the same. In other words, the benefits of consolidation significantly outweigh the harms associated with a minor delay in the construction of the Customer's interconnection facilities.

IV. CONCLUSION

The above-captioned transmission line siting applications involve common questions of law and fact regarding the interconnection and service needs of a single large load customer, under the same regulatory standards for the taking of evidence and adjudication, and where the same party bears the burden of proof. Granting consolidation will reduce the production and taking of repetitive evidence, reduce the administrative burden on the Commission in adjudicating these matters, and will not substantially prejudice any party. Any delay in the procedural schedules for resolution of these matters is outweighed by the significant benefits in providing a more fulsome and thorough review of these applications and in reducing public confusion regarding these proceedings. For these reasons, the Office of Consumer Advocate respectfully requests that the Commission and the ALJs grant this Motion for Consolidation.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Jacob Guthrie

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Office of Consumer Advocate
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Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923
717-783-5048

Dated: May 7, 2026

Melanie Joy El Atieh
Deputy Consumer Advocate
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Assistant Consumer Advocate
PA Attorney I.D. # 338426
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WITNESS: Joseph B. Lookup

**PPL Electric Utilities Corporation
Response to the Set II Data Requests of the
Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA)
Dated March 27, 2026
Docket No. A-2025-3059443**

OCA II-18 Provide copies of all Local Plans provided by PPL to PJM which include this Project and/or Phase II of the Project, including initial Plans and subsequent revisions to those Plans.

PPL Electric PPL Electric local plan slides as posted by PJM can be found
Response here: <https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/committees-groups/committees/srtep-ma/postings/2024/ppl-local-plan-submission-for-2024-rtep.pdf>



PPL Transmission Zone: Supplemental

Need Number: PPL-2024-0003

Process Stage: Submission of Supplemental Project for inclusion in the Local Plan 10/15/2024

Need Slide Presented: 06/04/2024

Solution Slide Presented: 8/6/2024

Supplemental Project Driver: Customer Service

Problem Statement:

A customer has submitted a request to have their facility served from a 230kV source in Hazleton, PA. The total facility load is approximately 1,980 MW (2033). The requested in service date is 05/2026.

Initial In-Service 2026 Load: 240MW

Projected 2028 Load: 720 MW

Projected 2031 Load: 1,440 MW



Specific Assumption References:

[PPL 2024 Annual Assumptions](#)

PJM TEAC - PPL Supplemental 8/6/2024

Need Number: PPL-2024-0003

Proposed Solution:

Tomhicken 230kV Switchyard: Install a six bay BAAH 230kV switchyard with a 125MVAR Capacitor bank.. Estimated Cost: \$45 M

Nescopeck 230kV Switchyard: Install a new three bay BAAH 230kV switchyard.. Estimated Cost: \$29.5 M

Susquehanna 230kV Switchyard: Install a new line terminal at Susquehanna 230kV yard by installing new dead-end, 230kV breaker, and associated equipment.. Estimated Cost: \$2 M

Susquehanna T10 230kV Switchyard: Install a new BAAH bay at the Susquehanna T10 230kV yard. Install two dead-ends, three 230kV breakers and associated equipment.. Estimated Cost: \$6 M

Harwood 230kV Substation: Install new line terminal in the Harwood 230kV switchyard, install one dead-end, two breakers, and associated equipment. New bay to be DBDB initial and future BAAH.. Estimated Cost: \$4 M

SUSQ-HARW #1 & #2 230kV Lines: Bifurcate the Susquehanna – Harwood #1 & #2 230kV and terminate at the new Tomhicken 230kV switchyard. Extend lines approximately 0.25 into the new Tomhicken 230kV switchyard.. Estimated Cost: \$3.7 M

Sunbury - Susquehanna #1 230kV Line: Bifurcate the Sunbury – Susquehanna #1 230kV into the new Nescopeck 230kV switchyard. Extend lines approximately 0.2 into the new Nescopeck 230kV switchyard.. Estimated Cost: \$1.85 M

Sunbury - Susquehanna #1 230kV Line Partial Rebuild: Rebuild the Sunbury - Susquehanna #1 230kV Line to double circuit 230kV for 3.9 miles from the Susquehanna 230kV yard to the new Nescopeck 230kV switchyard.. Estimated Cost: \$17.2 M

Glen Brook - Susquehanna 230kV Line: Bifurcate the Glen Brook – Susquehanna 230kV line into the Susquehanna T10 yard. Extend lines approximately 0.25 into the existing Susquehanna T10 230kV switchyard.. Estimated Cost: \$3 M

Nescopeck - Tomhicken 230kV Line: Extend a double circuit 230kV (built for 500kV) for ~9 miles from Nescopeck to Tomhicken on existing PPL ROW. Extend single circuit 230kV (built for 500kV DlbCir) for 2.7 miles from Tomhicken to Harwood and terminate at Harwood. This will create the Nescopeck - Tomhicken 230kV and Nescopeck - Harwood 230kV lines.. Estimated Cost: \$80.5 M

Tomhicken Customer Taps 230kV lines: Install four 230kV lead lines for approximately 0.1 miles from Tomhicken 230kV switchyard to the customer facility.. Estimated Cost: \$3.8 M

Transmission Cost Estimate: \$196.55 M

Alternatives Considered:

1. Rebuild the Susquehanna – Harwood #1 & #2, install a third line 230kV circuit from SUSQ-HARW, and break GLBR-SUSQ into SU10. Rebuild of the Susquehanna – Harwood #1 & #2 infeasible due to outage conflicts with HARW-SIEG/EPAL 230kV rebuild under S2374 as well as the lack of operational flexibility. Estimated cost \$199 million.

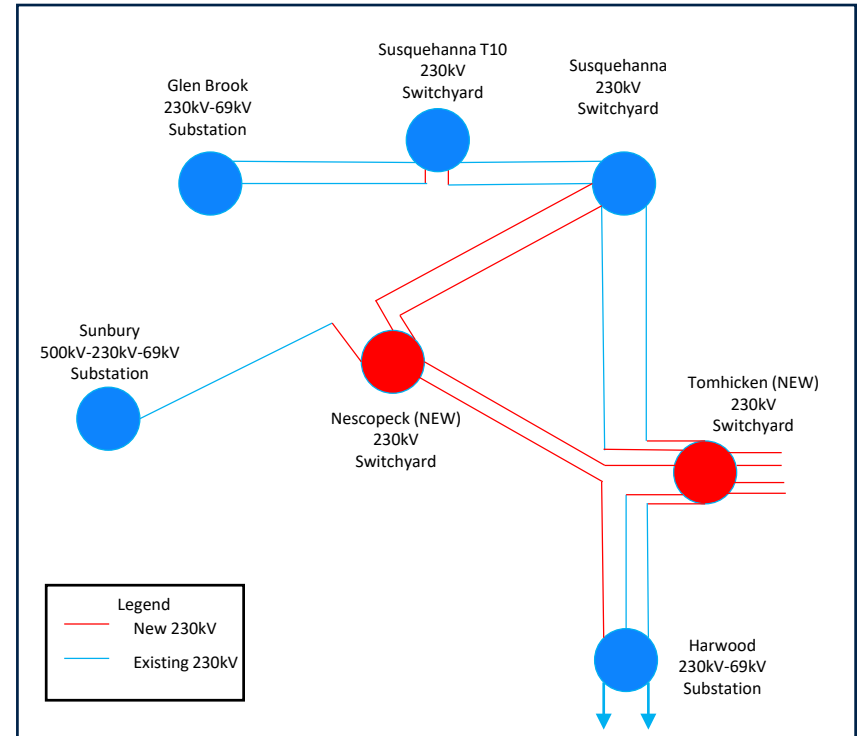
Projected In-Service: 6/1/2026: S3528.1, S3528.6, & S3528.11

6/1/2027: S3528.2, S3528.3, S3528.4, S3528.5, S3528.7, S3528.8, S3528.9, S3528.10

Project Status: Conceptual

Model: 2028

Supplemental #: S3528.1-11



WITNESS: Joseph B. Lookup

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation
Response to the Set II Data Requests of the
Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA)
Dated March 27, 2026
Docket No. A-2025-3059443

OCA II-20

Please provide copies of all communication materials prepared by PPL or under its supervision regarding Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 of the Project. Such materials should include, *inter alia*, all presentations, frequently asked questions (FAQs), fact sheets, URLs to webpages, intended for consumers, landowners, interested community members, legislators, and/or local or state government officials. To the extent that personally identifiable information is contained in such materials, please redact all such information.

PPL Electric
Response

See OCA II-20 Attachments 1-9.



This letter has important information regarding an upcoming project in your area.

April 7, 2025

[Property Owner Name(s)]

[Mailing Address]

Dear Landowner:

PPL Electric Utilities plans to build a new 500 kV transmission line from the proposed Nescopeck Switchyard, south of the Susquehanna River, in Nescopeck Township, to the proposed Tomhicken Switchyard, south of Tomhicken Road, and the existing Harwood Substation, west of Interstate-81 (I-81), in Hazle Township, Luzerne County. The project will utilize an existing right-of-way corridor which is being expanded to accommodate the new transmission line. The new facilities and transmission lines are needed to provide additional power to the area to support future load growth due to business expansion. This proposed project will allow PPL Electric to meet the growing demand for power in the region while enhancing reliability and resilience for all customers in this region.

You're receiving this letter because you own property within approximately 500 feet of the proposed project.

PPL Electric wants to keep you informed every step of the way. As part of this effort, PPL Electric is hosting an informational open house for area residents at the Valley Country Club located at 79 Country Club Lane, Sugarloaf, PA 18249 on Wednesday, April 30, 2025. The project team will be on hand to provide information about the project and answer any questions you may have. There is no set agenda for the open house and no formal presentations, so feel free to visit at your convenience any time between 6 and 8 p.m.

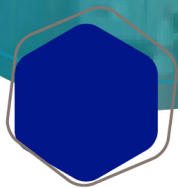
For more information about the project, visit our website at ppllectric.com/sugarloafproject or contact us with questions or comments via email at SugarloafProject@pplweb.com.

Sincerely,

Matt Sly
Lead Right of Way Agent
Contract Land Staff, LLC
Representing PPL Electric Utilities
5000 Tilghman St., Suite 157
Allentown, PA 18104
Cell: 231.709.3198

Enclosure

WELCOME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE!

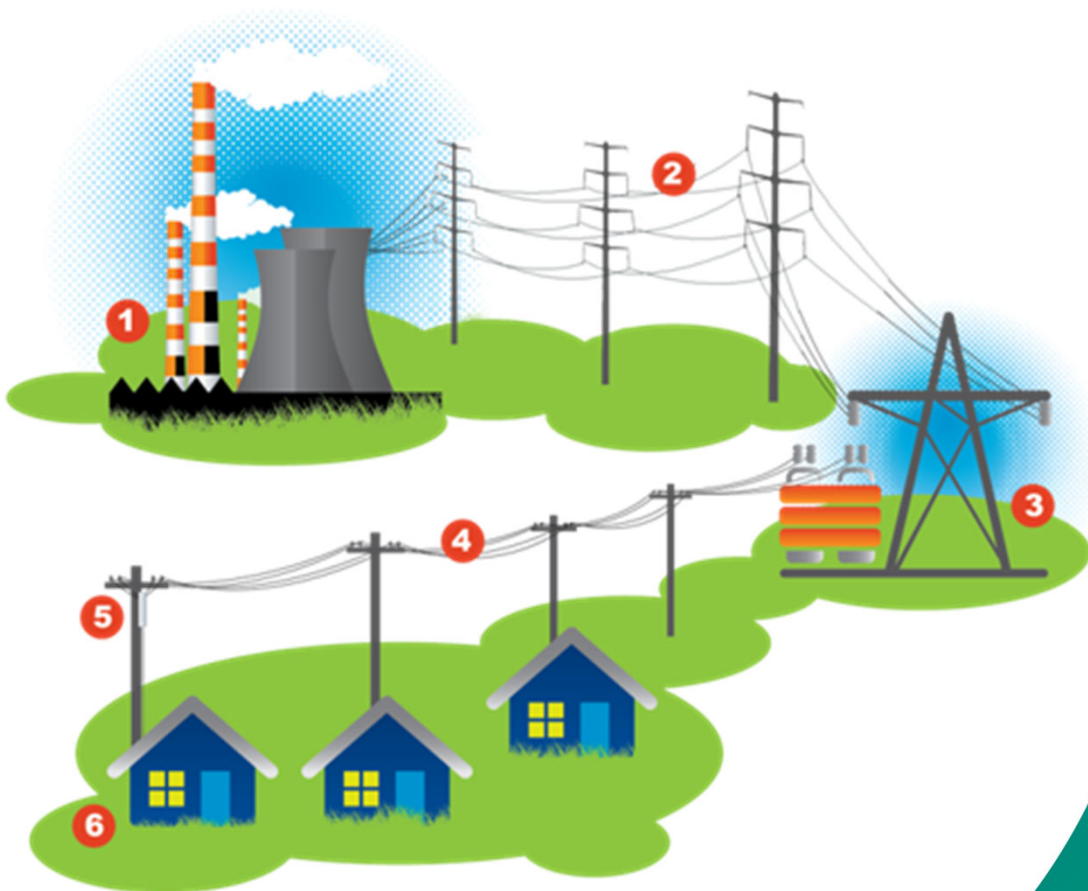


We're bringing you detailed information about an important electric transmission project in Luzerne County.



Transmission: How it Works

Just like a highway system, transmission is responsible for moving electricity quickly and safely over long distances.



Here's how it works:

1. Electricity is generated at a power plant.
2. Then, it's transported over high-voltage transmission lines.
3. Voltage is reduced by transformers at a substation.
4. Distribution lines transport lower-voltage electricity.
5. Overhead transformers further reduce voltage.
6. And finally, electricity is delivered to homes and businesses.

Project Need

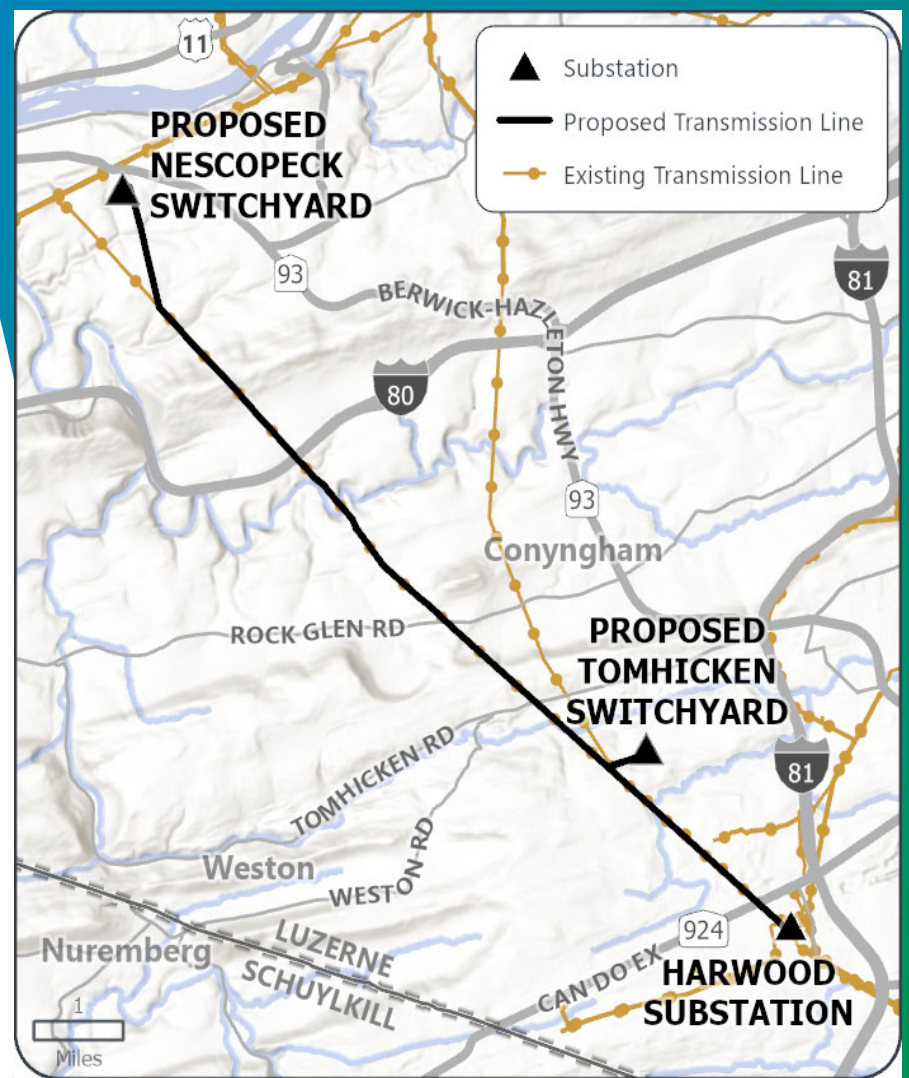
- Multiple new customers have requested electric service to power their proposed site.
- To provide reliable power to multiple new customers, PPL Electric will construct a new double circuit 500 kV transmission line from the new PPL Electric Nescopeck switchyard and extend it to the new PPL Electric Tomhicken switchyard and existing PPL Electric Harwood substation.
- The proposed project will allow PPL Electric to meet the growing demand for power in the region while enhancing reliability and resilience for all customers in this region.

Project Overview

We're building a new 500 kV transmission line from the new Nescopeck switchyard to the new Tomhicken switchyard and the existing Harwood substation.

The project will utilize an existing ROW corridor that is being expanded to accommodate the new line.

The proposed transmission line will be designed and built for 500 kV operation but will initially operate at 230 kV until increasing load growth in the area necessitates its operation at 500 kV.



Siting Process

- Conduct detailed evaluation of project areas (environmentally sensitive areas, populated areas, waterways, wetlands, etc.)
- Perform alternative route analysis.
- Select the preferred route for the location of the new switchyard and the 500 kV transmission line to minimize impacts to the built and natural environments.
- Submit Siting Application to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) for the new transmission line for the Commission's review and approval.

Route Selection

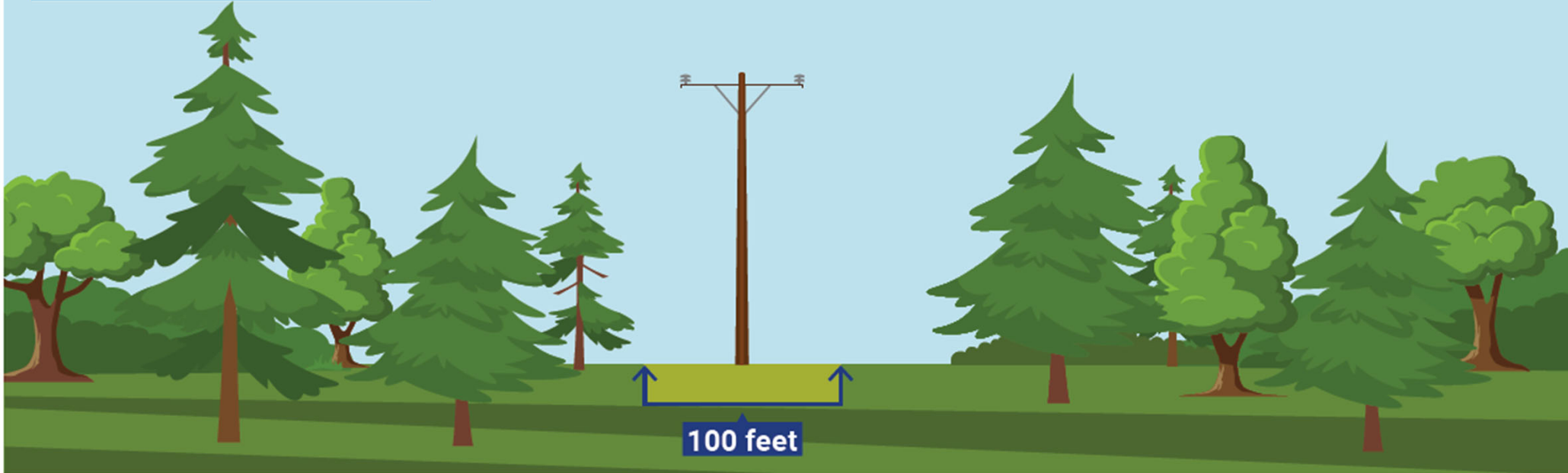
- The route was selected based on a comprehensive evaluation of the project need and the study area.
- Constructing the new 500 kV transmission line within an existing transmission corridor has the least cumulative impact to the built and natural environments.
- Any alternative location for the line would be through undeveloped areas and would have substantially more cumulative impact than the selected route which utilizes a corridor that previously contained a transmission line.

Right of Way

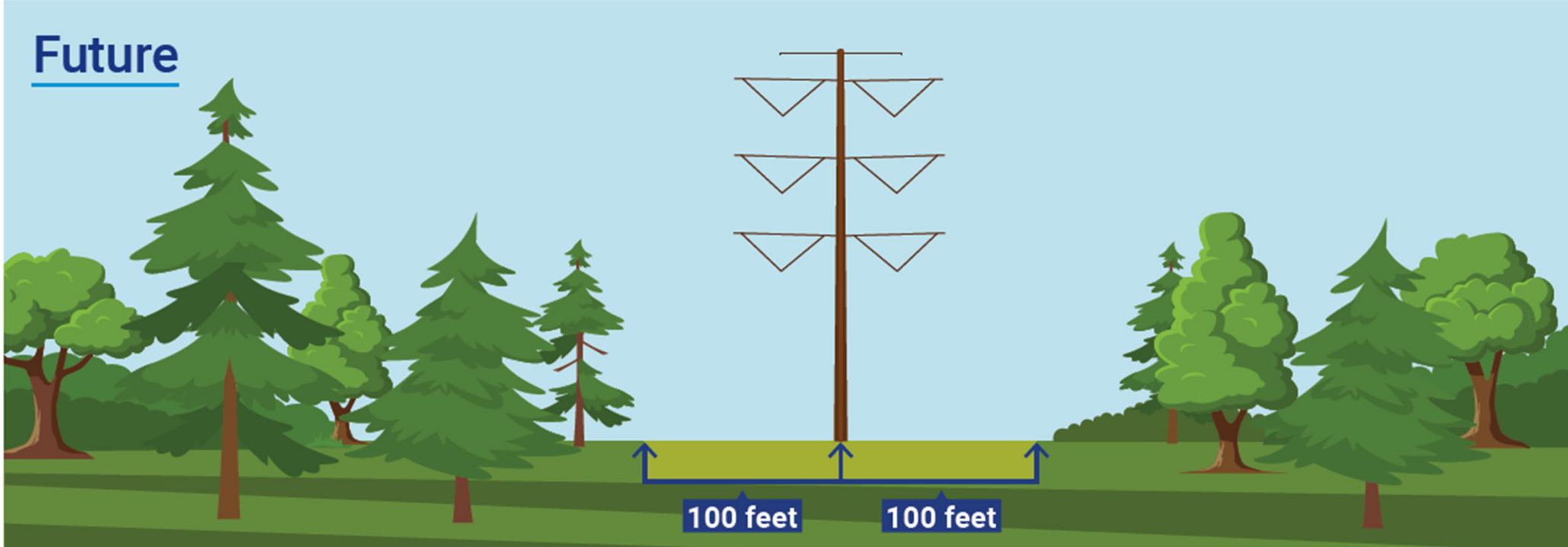
- Easements give PPL Electric the right to access, construct, maintain and rebuild transmission lines while the landowner retains ownership of the property.
- To accommodate the 500 kV transmission line, PPL Electric will use an existing 100-foot-wide right-of-way corridor that is being expanded to 200-feet.
- PPL Electric is working with property owners to purchase these rights.
- We will negotiate in good faith and compensate at fair market value when acquiring these rights.

Sugarloaf Project

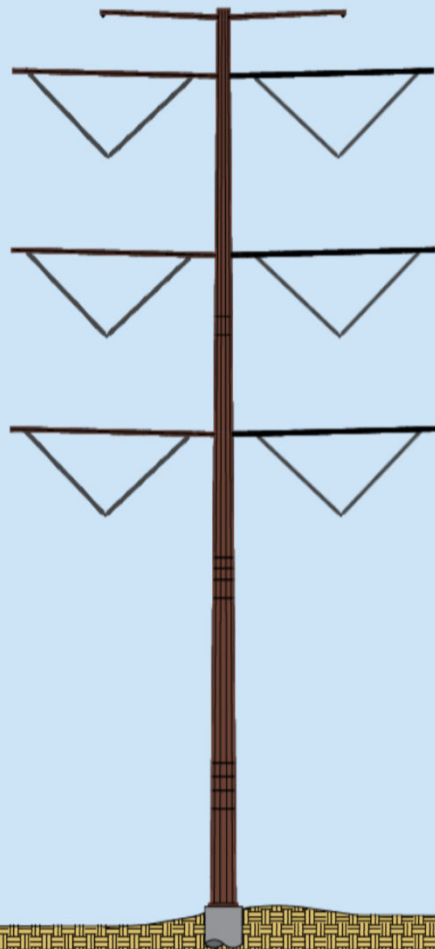
Previous (~2022)



Future



Engineering



- The proposed transmission line will be designed and built for 500 kV operation but will initially operate at 230 kV until increasing load growth in the area necessitates its operation at 500 kV.
- The new poles supporting the 500 kV transmission line will be between 100 to 240-feet tall with an average height of approximately 200-feet.
- The 500 kV poles will weather with a dark-brown protective coating and are designed to be stronger and more weather-resistant.

Environmental & Permitting Process

Our Commitment

We will work hard to minimize impacts to the natural environment and reduce and control erosion and sedimentation during construction.

We work cooperatively with regulatory agencies, obtain all required permits and meet all the environmental requirements of our permits.

The transmission line construction process will minimize the impacts to environmentally and culturally sensitive resources to the extent practical, including:



Threatened, endangered or rare species and natural communities



Wetlands, streams and regulated floodplains



Historical and archaeological resources

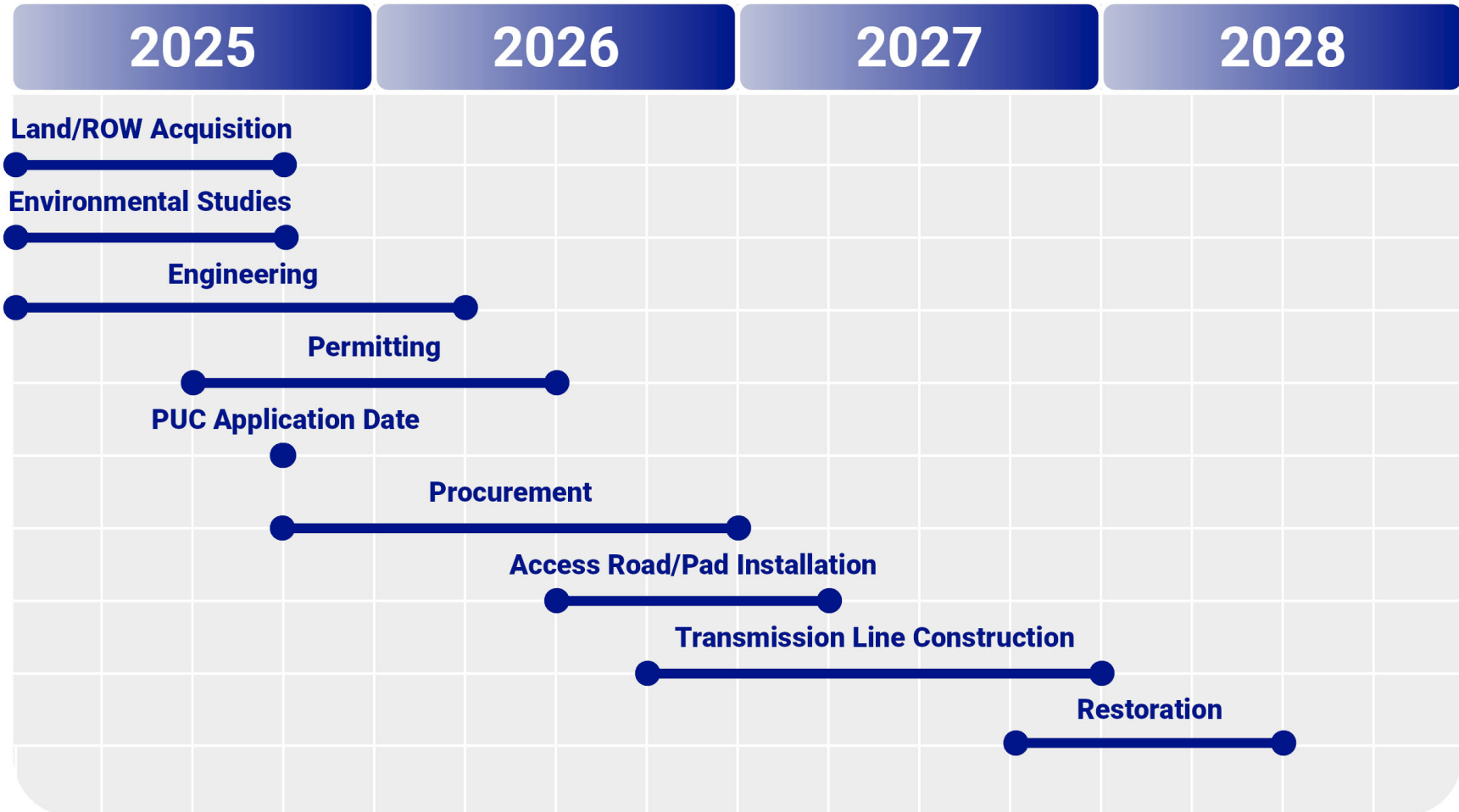
Construction Activities

PPL Electric will work with landowners to reduce potential inconveniences during construction

Construction will begin after PUC / regulatory approvals and permits have been acquired and will include the following steps:

- Material delivery and staging.
- Installing erosion and sedimentation controls.
- Installing access roads to the work areas.
- Drilling holes, installing foundations and erecting the new poles.
- Installing the conductor and overhead wires.
- Restoring any disturbed areas.

Project Timeline



- Project timeline is preliminary and subject to change
- PPL Electric will post schedule updates on its project specific website, <https://sugarloafproject.com/>



PPL Electric Utilities

Sugarloaf 500 kV Project

INTRODUCTION

A resilient transmission system helps us deliver safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity across the region. That's why we've invested in focused upgrades and have continued to innovate and advance our electric grid through transmission projects, like this one, to improve reliability, protect the grid from extreme weather, reduce outages and enable renewable energy interconnections.

We're planning to build approximately 12 miles of new 500 kV transmission line as well as two new switchyards in Luzerne County to support future load growth due to business expansion. This proposed project will allow us to meet the growing demand for power in the region while enhancing reliability and resilience for all customers in this region.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED?

The new facilities and transmission lines are needed to provide additional power to the area to support future load growth due to business expansion. This proposed project will allow us to meet the growing demand for power in the region while enhancing reliability and resilience for all customers in this region.

WHAT WORK WILL OCCUR?

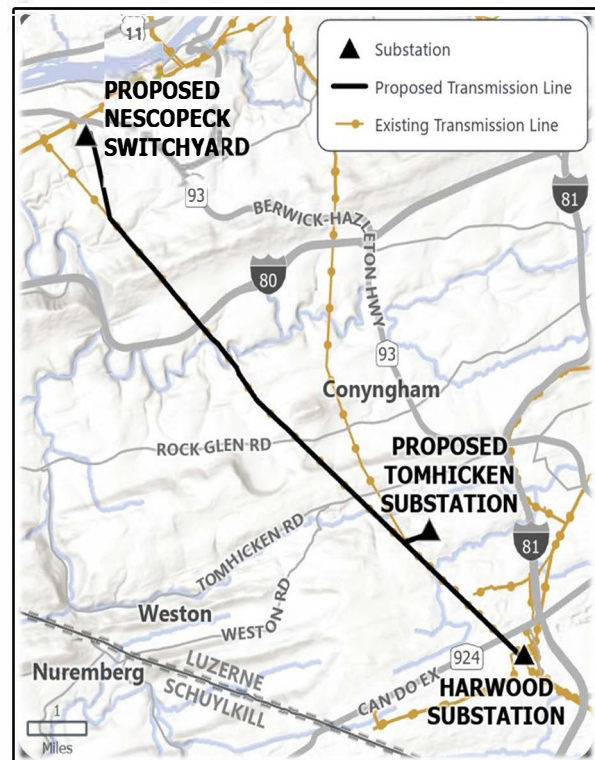
Beginning in 2026, we'll construct a new 500 kV transmission line, mostly within existing right of way, as well as two new switchyards. Construction will include installation of environmental controls and access roads, clearing of any trees in new right-of-way and installation of new steel transmission structures. Construction will also involve creating temporary work pads and pull pads, which will be used to install the new conductors. All disturbed areas will be restored upon completion of the project.

We anticipate the entire construction process for the transmission lines and switchyards will require approximately a year and a half and anticipate the project will be in-service by fall 2027.

HOW TO LEARN MORE

As always, we're committed to keeping affected landowners and communities informed throughout each step of the project. For more information about the project, visit our website at ppllectric.com/sugarloafproject.

In addition, we will host an informational open house on Wednesday, April 30, at the Valley Country Club located at 79 Country Club Lane, Sugarloaf, PA 18249, to share more details about this project and answer questions.



ABOUT PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES

PPL Electric Utilities delivers safe, reliable and affordable electricity to nearly 1.5 million homes and businesses across 29 counties in eastern and central Pennsylvania. Visit ppllectric.com for energy efficiency tips, bill help information, guidance on shopping for an electricity supplier and more.



Sugarloaf 500 kV Project

Introduction

A resilient transmission system helps us deliver safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity across the region. That’s why we’ve invested in focused upgrades and have continued to innovate and advance our electric grid through transmission projects that help to improve reliability, protect the grid from extreme weather, spur economic growth and enable renewable energy interconnections.

We’re planning to build approximately 12 miles of new 500 kV transmission line as well as two new switchyards in Luzerne County. The project will utilize an existing right-of-way corridor that will be expanded to accommodate the new transmission line. The new facilities and transmission lines are needed to provide additional power to the area to support future load growth due to business expansion. This proposed project will allow us to meet the growing demand for power in the region while enhancing reliability and resilience for all customers in this region.

Frequently Asked Questions

PPL Electric Utilities Project Details

What are the specifics of this proposed project?

PPL Electric Utilities plans to build approximately 12 miles of new 500 kV transmission line as well as two new switchyards in Luzerne County. The new transmission line will be designed for 500 kV operation, but will initially operate at 230 kV until increasing load growth in the area necessitates its operation at 500 kV.

The proposed Nescopeck 500 / 230 kV Switchyard will be located in Nescopeck Township, near PPL Electric’s existing Sunbury-Susquehanna 500 and 230 kV transmission lines. The proposed Tomhicken 230 kV Switchyard will be located in Hazle Township, near a new customer facility, and adjacent to PPL Electric’s existing Susquehanna-Harwood 230 kV transmission lines.

The approximate 12 miles of new transmission lines will interconnect the two proposed switchyards and the Harwood Substation, as well as extend power to a customer’s facility. This will require two separate segments. The first segment will run between the proposed Nescopeck Switchyard and the proposed Tomhicken Switchyard. This portion of the line will be a double circuit and will be installed on the same transmission support structures. The lines will initially operate at 230 kV, but will be designed for 500 kV operation in



anticipation of continued load growth in the surrounding area. The second segment will be a single-circuit line that runs between the proposed Tomhicken Switchyard and the existing Harwood Substation.

What does the construction process include?

Construction will include installation of environmental controls and access roads, clearing of any trees in new right-of-way and installation of new steel transmission structures. Construction will also involve creating temporary work pads and pull pads, which will be used to install the new conductors. All disturbed areas will be restored upon completion of the project.

Why is this project needed?

The new facilities and transmission lines are needed to provide additional power to the area to support future load growth, including a new customer facility. This proposed project will allow us to meet the growing demand for power in the region while enhancing reliability and ensuring that our system still delivers reliable power to customers in this region and beyond.

What townships will the transmission line run through?

The new transmission lines will be constructed in Nescopeck, Black Creek, Sugarloaf and Hazle Townships in Luzerne County.

The Nescopeck Switchyard will be built in Nescopeck Township while the Tomhicken Switchyard will be built in Hazle Township.

What will these new transmission poles look like?

The transmission structures will be constructed of steel with a dark-brown protective coating and are designed to be stronger and more weather-resistant. Based on preliminary engineering, these monopole structures will range in height from approximately 100 to 240 feet, with an average height of approximately 200 feet. Actual pole heights will be determined during final engineering.

Will this project require additional right-of-way?

Yes. The new transmission line will require the acquisition of additional right-of-way. The project will utilize an existing 100-foot-wide right-of-way corridor that will be expanded to 200 feet to accommodate the new transmission line. PPL Electric is working with landowners to purchase the necessary easements across each of the affected properties.

Will my power need to be turned off for this work?

No. The project will not require outages on our distribution system, which provides electricity to residents and local businesses.



Will this project need to be approved by the Pennsylvania PUC?

Yes. The siting of this transmission line will require Pennsylvania PUC review and approval.

When will this project be built?

We anticipate the entire construction process for the transmission lines and switchyards will require approximately a year and a half. With a proposed start date of spring 2026, we anticipate the project will be in-service by fall 2027.

Working with Property Owners

Will this project affect my property value?

Residents who choose to expand the right-of-way width of existing easements will be fairly compensated. We have no evidence that there is a long-term effect on property values from a project like this. Additionally, this project, in part, utilizes an existing transmission line corridor.

How is the value of the easement determined?

We determine the value of the easement by obtaining a fair market value analysis from a certified appraiser, and then we negotiate with the property owner to reach a mutually agreeable payment.

Is there any compensation for those property owners near the line from whom PPL Electric doesn't need to purchase right-of-way?

No.

Is it possible PPL Electric will use eminent domain?

Our first choice is always to negotiate and reach an amicable settlement. If we have not reached an agreement with a property owner from whom we need to acquire right-of-way, we will file an application with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission seeking authorization to use eminent domain. In the eminent domain process, PPL Electric pays the estimated just compensation as determined by the certified appraiser's fair market value analysis report.

How is PPL Electric communicating with area residents and other stakeholders?

As always, we're committed to keeping affected landowners and communities informed throughout each step of the project. We will host an informational open house on Wednesday, April 30, at the Valley Country Club located at 79 Country Club Lane, Sugarloaf, PA 18249, to share more details about this project and answer questions. Input received at the open house will be considered during project planning.

Additional information is available on our website at pplelectric.com/sugarloafproject.



Other Questions

What is a transmission line?

Transmission lines carry electricity at high voltages across long distances to efficiently connect power plants with areas where customers need the power. Transmission lines are similar to interstate highways in the interconnected electric system.

What is a switchyard?

A switchyard houses electrical infrastructure, including circuit breakers and protective devices, required to safely control the flow of high voltage power across transmission lines.

What is a substation?

A substation houses electrical infrastructure — including circuit breakers, protective devices and transformers — required to safely control and transform the flow and level of high voltage power across transmission lines.

Does EMF have any effect on health?

“EMF” is an abbreviation for “electric and magnetic fields” and “electromagnetic fields.” Power lines, appliances and home wiring all produce electric and magnetic fields.

Current scientific evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields. More information, including links to studies by outside agencies, can be seen on our website at ppl electric.com/emf.

Could this line be built underground?

The vast majority of PPL Electric’s transmission system is above ground. We consider a host of factors in siting transmission lines, including costs and potential impacts to the community and the environment, which are paid for by customers. Building a transmission line underground can be up to 10 times more expensive than overhead construction. There are several reasons for this:

- It takes multiple underground lines to equal the capacity of a single overhead line.
- Underground lines require more earth disturbance for trenching.
- If damaged, underground lines can take substantially longer to repair, a delay that could seriously affect reliable electric service.
- If the underground line is placed within a roadway, there are often other underground utilities that must be avoided.

Underground lines are not invisible — they require a surface right-of-way stripped of all vegetation and trees and manholes for access. Because of these issues, underground



transmission construction typically only makes sense in areas where there is no viable above-ground route.

Some transmission lines make an audible “buzz.” Will that be the case with this line?

The buzz that you may hear from the proposed transmission line is caused by small electric discharges on the surface of the wires known as “corona.” This harmless phenomenon is most noticeable on humid days when water droplets form on the transmission lines. PPL Electric will make every effort to minimize any increases in audible noise during the engineering phase of the project.

Open Space and Environmental

Will this project have any adverse impact on the environment?

We will work very hard to minimize any impact on the natural environment. Our track record shows that we work cooperatively with regulatory agencies, obtain all required permits and meet all environmental requirements and regulations under the terms of our permits.

What happens if there are wetlands in the area where this work will be completed?

PPL Electric has an excellent record of building projects in a way that is extremely sensitive to environmental issues, and we will address wetlands in a manner consistent with all applicable regulations. This includes trying to avoid putting poles in wetlands and instead placing them on either side of a wetland and spanning it with the wires.

If you disturb the current wetlands, are you going to build new ones elsewhere?

PPL Electric plans to meet Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulations that exist for conducting work in wetland areas.

Will PPL Electric Utilities need to cut down trees to build this project?

Yes. In some cases, there will be tree removal where necessary to maintain a safe path for the power line.

Why does PPL Electric Utilities use herbicides to maintain its right-of-way?

Herbicide use is an effective vegetation management technique that minimizes the physical impact on a power line right-of-way while enabling us to maintain safe and reliable electric service.

All herbicides are applied selectively by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture certified contractors working on the ground with hand-held equipment or with all-terrain vehicles.

Compatible species are preserved as much as possible since they provide natural competition for tall-growing species of trees. This low-growing plant community also provides ideal habitat for wildlife that feeds on saplings of many of the tall-growing



species. The combined effects of plant competition and wildlife activity help minimize the herbicides needed to ensure safe and reliable electric lines.

What effect will herbicide application have on wildlife and the environment?

We will apply only products that have been approved for use on utility right-of-way by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These products have undergone significant testing to ensure that, when used according to labeled instructions, they pose no threat to you, wildlife or the environment. In fact, some of the materials we use are the same as those commonly used by homeowners. There are significant, well-documented benefits resulting from the selective herbicide application techniques we use. Ideal wildlife habitat is created within these right-of-way corridors.

Other Resources

- [PPL Electric Utilities Sugarloaf 500 kV Project Webpage](#)