

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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	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	P-2026-3061609
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, Accommodation, Convenience, Or Safety Of The Public	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

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR CONSOLIDATION

A-2025-3059443

On December 19, 2025, PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL) filed a Letter of Notification with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission pursuant to Sections 57.72(d)(1)(iii) and (vi) of Commission regulations, 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(iii), (vi), to build approximately 1.1 miles of new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission taps (Tap Lines). PPL states that the Tap Lines are needed to connect the existing Susquehanna-Harwood #1 & #2 230 kV Transmission Lines to the new Tomhicken 230 kV Switchyard (Project). The Project also includes the construction of two new 0.1-mile-long 230 kV transmission lines (Connecting Lines) from the Tomhicken 230 kV Switchyard to a new customer-owned 230-34 kV substation. The new Connecting Lines, Tap Lines and Tomhicken 230 kV Switchyard are located in Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

A Prehearing Conference Order was issued on January 14, 2026, providing instructions for participation in a March 18, 2026 telephonic prehearing conference. A Telephonic Prehearing Conference Notice for the March 18, 2026 prehearing conference was issued on January 15, 2026. Notice of the prehearing conference was also published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on January 31, 2026. 56 Pa.B. 736 (Jan. 31, 2026). The order and notices advised that protests and petitions to intervene must be filed on or before March 13, 2026 and provided information for joining the prehearing conference.

In addition, on February 19, 2026, PPL filed affidavits stating that the protest deadline and conference participation information were published in the Wilkes Barre Citizens' Voice and Wilkes Barre Times Leader on January 28, 2026 and February 4, 2026.

Three protests were timely filed by: the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), on January 7, 2026; Erika Cook, on March 13, 2026; and John Zola, on March 13, 2026.

In response to the Prehearing Conference Order, PPL and OCA submitted prehearing memoranda outlining their respective positions on various procedural matters. The

prehearing conference convened on March 18, 2026, as scheduled. Counsel for PPL and OCA appeared, as well as *pro se* protestors Erika Cook and John Zola.

A Scheduling Order was issued on March 20, 2026, setting forth the procedural matters addressed during the prehearing conference, including establishment of a procedural schedule.

On March 26, 2026, Prehearing Order #1 was issued, memorializing Erika Cook and John Zola's status as active parties.

On April 2, 2026, PPL filed preliminary objections to the protests of Erika Cook and John Zola.

On April 6, 2026, Erika Cook and John Zola filed answers to PPL's preliminary objections.

On April 13, 2026, OCA filed answers to PPL's preliminary objections.

On April 14, 2026, Prehearing Order #2 was issued, denying PPL's preliminary objections.

On April 16, 2026, the OCA filed a Motion to Dismiss Objections and to Compel Answers to Interrogatories of the Office of Consumer Advocate (Motion to Compel).

On April 21, 2026, PPL filed its Answer to the OCA's Motion to Compel.

On April 29, 2026, Prehearing Order # 3 was issued, granting the OCA's Motion to Compel.

On May 5, 2026, the Commission issued a Public Input Hearing Notice, scheduling In-Person Public Input Hearings for June 30, 2026 in Hazleton, PA.

On May 19, 2026, Erika Cook filed a Motion to Deny Applications/Petition Without Prejudice (Cook Motion).

On June 8, 2026, PPL filed an Answer to the Cook Motion.

A-2026-3061547, P-2026-3061609, A-2026-3061549 et al

On April 6, 2026, PPL filed an Application with the Commission for approval to: (1) rebuild approximately 4.4 miles of the existing single-circuit Sunbury-Susquehanna #1 230 kV Transmission Line for double-circuit 230 kV operation (Susquehanna-Nescopeck #1 and #2 230 kV Transmission Lines) from the existing Susquehanna Switchyard to the proposed Nescopeck 230 kV Switchyard (Nescopeck Switchyard); (2) construct a new approximately 0.9-mile-long 230 kV transmission line tap for future 230 kV double-circuit operation (Sunbury-Nescopeck #1 230 kV Transmission Line) from the existing single-circuit Sunbury-Susquehanna #1 230 kV Transmission Line to the new Nescopeck Switchyard; (3) raise approximately 0.5 miles of the Sunbury-Susquehanna 500 kV Transmission Line to accommodate the undercrossing of the proposed Susquehanna-Nescopeck #1 and #2 230 kV Transmission Lines and the proposed Sunbury-Nescopeck #1 230 kV Transmission Line; and (4) construct a new 11.2-mile-long 230 kV transmission line (Sugarloaf 500/230 kV Transmission Line) for future double-circuit 500 kV capacity between the proposed Nescopeck Switchyard, new Tomhicken Switchyard, and the existing Harwood 230/69 kV Substation. This Application was filed at Docket No. A-2026-3061547.

Also on April 6, 2026, PPL filed: (1) a Petition 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, at Docket No. P-2026-3061609; and (2) 30 Applications 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 a certain portion of the lands of various entities in Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, for the Sugarloaf 500/230 kV Transmission Line project 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, at Docket Nos. 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, and A-2026-3061585.

On April 20, 2026, the Commission issued a Telephonic Prehearing Conference Notice, setting July 10, 2026 as the date for a prehearing conference for the proceedings at Docket Nos. A-2026-3061547, P-2026-3061609, A-2026-3061549 *et al.* Notice of the prehearing conference was also published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on May 2, 2026. 56 Pa.B. 2484 (May 2, 2026). The notices advised that protests and petitions to intervene must be filed on or before July 3, 2026 and provided information for joining the prehearing conference.

On May 7, 2026, the OCA filed a Protest at Docket Nos. A-2026-3061547, P-2026-3061609, and A-2026-3061549.

On May 19, 2026, Erika Cook filed the Cook Motion at Docket Nos. A-2026-3061547, P-2026-3061609, and A-2026-3061549.

Motion for Consolidation

On May 7, 2026, the OCA filed a Motion for Consolidation of Dockets A-2025-3059443 and A-2026-3061547 (Consolidation Motion) at Docket Nos. A-2025-3059443, A-2026-3061547, P-2026-3061609, and A-2026-3061549.

On May 27, 2026, PPL filed an Answer to the Consolidation Motion at Docket Nos. A-2025-3059443 and A-2026-3061547 (Answer).

For the reasons stated below, the OCA's Consolidation Motion will be denied.

DISCUSSION

The Commission's regulation pertaining to consolidation states in relevant part:

§ 5.81. Consolidation

(a) The 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(a).

In addition to considering whether proceedings involve a common question of law or fact, Administrative Law Judges customarily consider the following factors:

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 all proceedings be repetitive?

Matterns Floral c/o Michelle Valentino Bedford v. UGI Utils, Inc., Docket No. C-2025-3056200 (Interim Order issued Oct. 16, 2025); *Thomas v. Phila. Gas Works*, Docket No. C-2017-2621275 (Order Consolidating the Complaints issued Feb. 6, 2018); *Yaglidereliler Corp., LLC v. Blue Pilot Energy, LLC*, Docket No. C-2014-2413732 (Order Consolidating Proceedings issued Feb. 17, 2015); *Holloway v. PECO Energy Co.*, Docket No. C-2010-2182180 (Ordering Consolidation Proceedings issued May 19, 2011); *Application of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Subchapter G, For Approval of the Siting and Construction of the Effort Mountain #1 and #2 138 kV Taps in Chestnuthill and Polk Townships, Monroe County, Pennsylvania*, Docket No. A-2010-2152104 (Order Consolidating Proceedings issued Mar. 11, 2010).

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 OCA provides several credible arguments why consolidation of the Docket Nos. A-2025-3059443 and A-2026-3061547 might be merited. First, the projects at Docket Nos. A-2025-3059443 and A-2026-3061547 represent two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2, of one larger, interrelated project. PPL itself acknowledges that the project at Docket No. A-2025-3059443 is “the first project of two that will be needed to serve new and future load within the area in which it will be constructed.” Answer ¶ 27. The Sugarloaf 500/230 kV Transmission Line project at Docket No. A-2026-3061547 “is needed to serve the customer that will be served through Phase 1 of the projects, whose load will increase in stages to approximately 956 MW by 2033. It is also needed to serve additional customers in the area who have applied for service, with a combined requested load of over 5,000 MW by 2033.” Answer ¶ 32. Accordingly, the OCA avers that the proceedings at Docket Nos. A-2025-3059443 and A-2026-3061547 present common questions of fact. Consolidation Motion at 10-13.

Second, the OCA expresses concern that the public may be confused regarding the scope of each phase of the larger project. Consolidation Motion at 13-15.

Third, since the two phases represent separate portions of a larger project, there may be duplicative evidence presented and produced through discovery in the two proceedings. Consolidation Motion at 15-16.

We agree that Phase 1 and Phase 2 have the potential to include common questions of fact as they represent two phases of one larger project. Because of this, we also agree that the two proceedings have the potential to contain some duplicative discovery and evidence. We also share the OCA's concern regarding the possibility of public confusion absent consolidation. Although PPL's filings before the Commission separately designate what is related to Phase 1 and what is related to Phase 2, it is unclear that this delineation has been or will be clear to the public who may be relying on materials related to the project other than filings made before the Commission. *See* Consolidation Motion at 13-14; Exhibit B.

However, on balance, we believe that the factors disfavoring consolidation outweigh those favoring consolidation.

As PPL notes, the Letter of Notification (LON) process initiated at A-2025-3059443 is designed to provide an abbreviated process for approval of a transmission line project under certain conditions as described at Section 57.72, 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1). *See Letter of Notification of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation Filed pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Subchapter G, for Approval to Rebuild the Existing Double-Circuit Stanton-Summit #3 and #4 230 kV Transmission Lines Connecting the Stanton 230-69 kV Substation and a Two-Pole Turn Structure That Are Respectively Located in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, Pennsylvania*, Docket No. A-2022-3037374 (Order entered June 13, 2024). This includes submission of less evidence than required by a transmission line siting Application process. *Compare* 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(4) (requirements for LON) *with* 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(c) (requirements for Application).

It is also not clear that the discovery and evidence in both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 proceedings will be unduly repetitive. Although both phases concern a larger project, the two phases also represent distinct proposals for siting and construction of transmission line facilities.

Although we are concerned regarding the possibility of public confusion absent consolidation, we also have concerns regarding public confusion if the proceedings *are* consolidated. Phase 2 includes the siting Application, a zoning Petition, and 30 eminent domain Applications.¹ Combining the LON proceeding into Phase 2 risks producing a disorderly and unwieldy record where Phase 2 already contains a number of distinct issues to be evaluated.

Relatedly, the Phase 1 proceeding is already underway. A procedural schedule has been set, including public input hearings on June 30, 2026 and evidentiary hearings in September 2026. Combining both phases into one proceeding would delay Phase 1 for an undetermined amount of time when a prehearing conference has yet to be held for Phase 2. Although the customer served by Phase 1 will also be served by Phase 2, PPL averred that the Phase 1 customer will independently require Phase 1 regardless of the outcome of Phase 2. Answer ¶ 48.

For these reasons, we deny the OCA's Consolidation Motion.

¹ As was stated in the April 20, 2026 Telephonic Prehearing Conference Notice issued at A-2026-3061547, P-2026-3061609, A-2026-3061549 et al, these proceedings related to Phase 2 have not yet been consolidated. Issues related to and the potential for consolidation will be discussed at the July 10, 2026 prehearing conference.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Office of Consumer Advocate's Motion for Consolidation of Dockets A-2025-3059443 and A-2026-3061547 is denied.

Date: June 24, 2026

/s/

Emily A. Farren
Administrative Law Judge

/s/

Steven K. Haas
Administrative Law Judge

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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

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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 A Certain Portion Of The 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, Docket Nos. 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, and A-2026-3061585

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