

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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

**PROTEST OF
JASON RITZ AND MELISSA RITZ**

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.51, Jason Ritz and Melissa Ritz (hereafter “Protestants”) file this Protest to the Application of PPL Corporation (hereafter “PPL” or the “Company”) 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 (hereafter “Sugarloaf Transmission Line”) (hereafter

“Siting Application”) as well as attendant applications under 15 Pa. C.S. § 1511(c) (hereafter “Right-of-Way Applications”).

Protestants file this Protest because the PPL has not shown that the proposed line is needed to serve the general public and because it has selected a route that is unreasonable and inconsistent with the legal requirements of the Public Utility Code, applicable Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (hereafter “Commission” or “PUC”) rules and regulations, and Pennsylvania law and to ensure that the interests of Pennsylvania ratepayers are protected in this proceeding.

In support of this Protest, Protestants aver as follows:

1. The name and contact information of the Protestants is as follows:

Jason Ritz and Melissa Ritz
3 North Prospect Park Drive
Sugarloaf, PA 18249

2. The names and contact information for the Protestants’ attorneys for the purpose of receiving service of all documents in this proceeding are as follows:

Justin P. Richards
Elliott Greenleaf, P.C.
15 Public Square, Suite 210
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

3. The Protestants have standing in that their property is situate in immediate proximity to the Sugarloaf Transmission Line and their property interests are specially and adversely affected distinct from the public at large. Protestants are persons aggrieved by the proposal contained within the Siting Application and are subject to special injury by way of, *inter alia*, diminution of property value and detrimental impacts to their immediate health, safety, and welfare separate and distinct from those detriments to be suffered by the public at large.

4. PPL filed its Siting Application and Right-of-Way Applications on April 6, 2026. In its Siting Application, PPL seeks Commission 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 m 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 (the last section to be referred to hereafter as the "Sugarloaf Transmission Line") (hereafter collectively the "Siting Application") as well as for a finding that will allow PPL to proceed to exercise eminent domain rights under Section 1511 of the Business Corporation Law (hereafter "BCL") (15 Pa.C.S. § 1511 (c)).

5. Pursuant to 66 Pa.C.S. §§ 501, 1501 and the Commission regulations at 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71 *et seq.*, the Commission has jurisdiction over the siting of the proposed transmission line. The Commission must examine the Siting Application pursuant to the Commission's rules and regulations and Pennsylvania law. It also has authority to make finding that will allow PPL to proceed until Section 1151(c) of the BCL.

6. The Commission's regulations provide that the Commission may not grant the Siting Application to approve the line in question, unless it finds:

- a. That there is a need for it;
- b. That it will not create an unreasonable risk of danger to the health and safety of the public;
- c. That it is in compliance with applicable statutes and regulations providing for the protection of the natural resources of this Commonwealth, and
- d. 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 § 57.76.

7. Additionally, in making its determination on the Siting Application, the Commission must consider, *inter alia*:

- a. The present and future necessity of the proposed HV line in furnishing service to the public.
- b. The safety of the proposed HV line.
- c. The impact and the efforts which have been and will be made to minimize the impact, if any, of the proposed HV line upon the following:
 - i. Land use.
 - ii. Soil and sedimentation.
 - iii. Plant and wildlife habitats.
 - iv. Terrain.
 - v. Hydrology.
 - vi. Landscape.
 - vii. Archeologic areas.
 - viii. Geologic areas.
 - ix. Historic areas.
 - x. Scenic areas.
 - xi. Wilderness areas.
 - xii. Scenic rivers.
- d. The availability of reasonable alternative routes.

52 Pa. Code § 57.75.

8. The Commission has also issued a Policy Statement providing guidelines for the filing of electric transmission line siting applications. 52 Pa. Code §§ 69.3101, *et seq.* The Commission's Policy Statement provides, *inter alia*, that a Siting Application should include information on reasonable alternative routes and include the following information:

- a. The environmental, historical, cultural and aesthetic considerations of each route.
- b. The proximity of these alternative routes to residential and nonresidential structures.
- c. The applicant's consideration of relevant existing rights of way.
- d. The comparative construction costs associated with each route.

52 Pa. Code § 69.3105(3).

9. In addition to the Commission's regulations and case law, the Commission is constitutionally obligated to ensure the protection of the environment pursuant to Pennsylvania Constitution of 1986.

10. Based upon a preliminary review of the Siting Application, the Protestants have identified the following areas that require further consideration by the Commission and must be resolved prior to Commission decision on this Siting Application:

- a. Need – The Commission must thoroughly examine the alleged need for the proposed transmission line. The Commission must also examine the harms and benefits resulting from this proposal.
- b. Alternatives to the Line – The Commission will need to analyze both transmission and non-transmission alternatives to the installation of the line as a whole and whether the proposed line is the most cost-effective and least environmentally intrusive alternative pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §§ 57.71, *et seq.* and Pa. Env't Def. Found. v. Commonwealth, 161 A.3d 911 (Pa. 2017).
- c. Impacts of the Proposed HV Line – The Commission must analyze the impacts of the proposed HV line in accordance with 52 Pa. Code Section 57.75 and must evaluate the impact of the line on the properties and communities in the proposed right-of-way.
- d. Safety – The Commission will need to examine whether the proposed transmission line presents any unreasonable risk of danger to the health and safety of the Protestants as well as the public at large.

As the proposed transaction is further analyzed, additional issues may arise that warrant review.

11. Protestants submit that the Company's request for approval of the instant Application should be subject to thorough formal investigation and evidentiary hearings, including

evidentiary site views of affected properties. The Commission should allow for notice and opportunity to be heard for all affected parties, including public input hearings and evidentiary hearings in the areas affected by this Siting Application

WHEREFORE, Jason Ritz and Melissa Ritz request that the PUC investigate and hold full hearings regarding the Siting Application and further reject the Application on the basis, *inter alia*, of PPL's failure to site the proposed line appropriately.

Respectfully submitted,



Justin P. Richards
Elliott Greenleaf, P.C.
15 Public Square, Suite 210
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
Counsel for Protestant

DATED: June 30, 2026

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document upon the participants, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by participant), in a manner and upon the persons listed below:

Michael J. Shafer, Esq.
Michelle L. Bartolomei
PPL Services Corporation
645 Hamilton Street,
Suite 700
Allentown, PA 18101
mjshater@pplweb.com
mlbartolomei@ipplweb.com

David B. MacGregor, Esq.
Garrett P. Lent, Esq.
Lindsay A. Berkstresser, Esq.
Hayley E. Wilburn, Esq.
Thomas Connolly
Brittney Corey
Post & Schell, P.C.
17 North Second Street, 12th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
dmacgregor@postschell.com
glent@postschell.com
lberkstresser@postschell.com
hwilburn(@postschell.com
tconnolly@postschell.com
bcorey@postschell.com

Counsel for PPL

Jacob Guthrie, Esq.
Melanie Joy El Atieh, Esq.
Josiah B. Harmar, Esq.
555 Walnut Street 5th Floor,
Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923
JGuthrie@paoca.org
MEIAtieh@paoca.org
JHarmar@paoca.org

Counsel for: Darryl A. Lawrence
Consumer Advocate Office of Consumer Advocate

The Honorable Steven K. Haas
Office of Administrative Law Judge
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor West
400 North Street

Harrisburg, PA 17120
The Honorable Emily A. Farren
Office of Administrative Law Judge
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor West
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Administrative Law Judges


Justin P. Richards

DATED: June 30, 2026