
Letter of Notification of	
PPL Electric Utilities	Docket No.:
Corporation for Approval	A-2025-3059443
to Construct the	
Susquehanna - Harwood 230	
kV Transmission Line Taps	
Located in Luzerne	
County, Pennsylvania	
In-Person Public Input	
Hearing	

Pages 229 - 389

Penn State University -
 Hazleton Campus
 Frank Kostos Building
 Room 001
 76 University Drive
 Hazleton, PA

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Docket No. A-2025-3059443

Hearing Date: June 30, 2026

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>FOR IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>IN EVIDENCE</u>
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Public Input Hearing

Exhibit 2	318	319
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Eachus Testimony



Docket No. A-2025-3059443

PPL Electric Utilities – Tomhicken 230 kV Switchyard Transmission Line Project Public Input Hearing

Public Comment of Nathan Eachus

Good evening. My name is Nate Eachus.

This is now the fifth time in the past seven months that I've testified before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. During that time, residents across northeastern Pennsylvania have repeatedly shown up to participate in these proceedings. We've spoken against two UGI rate increase requests, a Pennsylvania American Water rate increase, PPL's previous electric rate case requesting a 33% increase, and now this high-voltage transmission line eminent domain proceeding. Now, all these utilities are all project partners with data center companies across the northeast region.

Many of us continue to participate because we care deeply about our communities. But after attending hearing after hearing, many residents are asking whether the Commission is truly listening to the people who are directly affected by these decisions.

The proposed transmission line would cut through farms, forests, and residential properties, permanently altering our rural landscape. Families would lose property rights, scenic views would be impacted, farmland would be fragmented, and communities would bear the long-term consequences of infrastructure built primarily to serve industrial data center demand

Across the river in Salem Township, Amazon's data center has been approved for diesel fuel capacity amounting to more than 28 million gallons annually. The Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority has approved approximately 258,000 gallons per day of sewage wastewater for data center cooling. In Hazle Township, approximately 1,500 acres of forest were cleared for a proposed data center project. Although that project was ultimately denied, the environmental impacts from that clearing have already occurred.

Tonight, while this hearing is taking place, another community is gathering in Kline Township to raise concerns about a separate proposed Amazon data center planned less than one mile from an EPA Superfund site and near an area where residents have raised concerns about elevated cancer rates.

These data center projects represent cumulative regional impacts, including increased electrical demand, additional transmission infrastructure, greater diesel emissions, increased water consumption, loss of forests and farmland, more industrial noise, and permanent changes to rural communities.

In Salem Township, the proposed QTS/Blackstone development where PPL is a project partner is planned 75 feet from properties. Residents have repeatedly raised concerns regarding setbacks, noise, diesel generators, and the cumulative impacts of industrial development on neighboring properties.

I also want to place on the record that residents have raised serious concerns regarding how the Salem Township data center project originated, including the fact that the Salem Twp local mail carrier worked directly with data center developers during the project's early stages. I urge the appropriate authorities to fully investigate this situation.

Residents have also raised concerns regarding the conduct of Salem Township public meetings. I ask the Commission to consider whether PPL representatives attended those meetings in Salem Twp or were

aware that residents living within the ten-mile emergency planning zone of the Susquehanna Nuclear Power Plant were prevented from asking questions regarding diesel fuel storage, emergency preparedness, and nuclear safety and thrown out by police force. Those are legitimate public safety concerns that deserve open discussion rather than exclusion from the public process.

Meanwhile, PPL has already received approval for a substantial electric rate increase of 27.5% that is expected to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in additional annual revenue.

I ask the Commission to carefully consider not only this individual transmission project, but also the broader cumulative impacts that communities throughout northeastern Pennsylvania are experiencing.

Infrastructure decisions made today will shape our region for generations. Once transmission corridors are established, forests are cleared, and communities are industrialized, those changes cannot simply be reversed. Data centers operate continuously. They require enormous amounts of electricity, generate constant noise, rely on diesel/methane generation systems, create significant light pollution, and require substantial supporting infrastructure. These impacts extend well beyond the property lines of any single facility.

I respectfully request that the Commission:

- Deny PPL's proposed transmission line application until the applicant demonstrates that the project primarily serves the public, not private commercial interests.
- Require a comprehensive assessment of cumulative public health impacts associated with the transmission project and any reasonably foreseeable industrial data center development it supports.
- Reevaluate the proposed cost allocation to ensure that private beneficiaries bear an equitable share of project costs.
- Require greater transparency regarding the anticipated end users of this infrastructure, including any planned or prospective data center developments.
- Require disclosure of any coordination or communications between PPL and data center developers concerning the need for this transmission infrastructure.
- Ensure that residential customers are not required to subsidize infrastructure that principally benefits private corporations.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Eachus (6/30/2026)

Concerned Luzerne County Citizen