

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



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August 11, 2026

Via Electronic Filing

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

Re: Transource PA's Certificate of Public
Convenience Application for Franklin
County; Docket No. A-2026-3062675;

Transource PA's Siting Application for
Franklin County; Docket No. A-2026-
3062686; and,

Transource PA's Zoning Exemption
Petition in Greene Township, Franklin
County; Docket No. P-2026-3062687

Dear Secretary Homsher:

For electronic filing, enclosed please find the OCA's Answer to Motion of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC for Relief in the Nature of an Order Directing Publication of Notice of the Filing of a Motion to Consolidate Proceedings.

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ryan Morden

Ryan Morden, PA Attorney I.D. # 335679
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Enclosures

cc: Administrative Law Judge Emily A. Farren (Via Email Only: efarren@pa.gov)
Administrative Law Judge Steven K. Haas (Via Email Only: sthaas@pa.gov)
Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Application of Transource Pennsylvania, :
LLC for All of the Necessary Authority, :
Approvals and Certificate of Public :
Convenience to Begin to Offer, Render, : Docket No. A-2026-3062675
Furnish and/or Supply Transmission Service :
in portions of Franklin County, Pennsylvania :
Necessary to Operate Transmission Facilities :
for Project 9A West; and for any Other :
Approvals Necessary :

Application of Transource Pennsylvania, :
LLC filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter :
57, Subchapter G, for Approval of the Siting :
and Construction of the 230 kV : Docket No. A-2026-3062686
Transmission Line known as Project 9A :
West in a Portion of Franklin County, :
Pennsylvania :

Petition of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC :
for Confirmation of an Exemption from :
Local Zoning Regulation and for the :
Construction of Buildings in connection with : Docket No. P-2026-3062687
the Construction of a Proposed Electric :
Substation in Greene Township, Franklin :
County, Pennsylvania :

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 documents, the Office of Consumer Advocate's Answer to Motion of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC for Relief in the Nature of an Order Directing Publication of Notice of the Filing of a Motion to Consolidate Proceedings upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code Section 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below.

Dated this 11th day of August 2026.

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BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Application of Transource Pennsylvania, :
LLC for All of the Necessary Authority, :
Approvals and Certificate of Public :
Convenience to Begin to Offer, Render, : Docket No. A-2026-3062675
Furnish and/or Supply Transmission Service :
in portions of Franklin County, Pennsylvania :
Necessary to Operate Transmission Facilities :
for Project 9A West; and for any Other :
Approvals Necessary :

Application of Transource Pennsylvania, :
LLC filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter :
57, Subchapter G, for Approval of the Siting :
and Construction of the 230 kV Transmission : Docket No. A-2026-3062686
Line known as Project 9A West in a Portion :
of Franklin County, Pennsylvania :

Petition of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC for :
Confirmation of an Exemption from Local :
Zoning Regulation and for the Construction :
of Buildings in connection with the : Docket No. P-2026-3062687
Construction of a Proposed Electric :
Substation in Greene Township, Franklin :
County, Pennsylvania :

ANSWER OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
TO MOTION OF TRANSOURCE PENNSYLVANIA, LLC. FOR RELIEF IN THE NATURE
OF AN ORDER DIRECTING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF THE FILING OF A
MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE PROCEEDINGS

TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES EMILY A. FARREN AND STEVEN K. HAAS:

Pursuant to Sections 5.61 of the Public Utility Commission's regulations, the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) files this Answer to Motion of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC (Transource or Company) for Relief in the Nature of an Order Directing Publication of Notice

of the Filing of a Motion to Consolidate Proceedings (Motion).¹ The OCA takes no position on the Company's request for an Order Direction Publication of Notice as outlined in its Motion, so long as parties have the opportunity to (1) submit an answer to the Motion to Consolidate in writing by the end of the newly established protest period, (2) answer the Motion to Consolidate in writing in their Prehearing Memo, and/or (3) respond orally to the Motion to Consolidate at the on-the-record prehearing conference scheduled for October 29, 2026. In light of the extended protest period established in Interim Order #1, the OCA believes that the Company's request to shorten the response period to the Company's Motion is no longer necessary.

I. INTRODUCTION

On May 21, 2026, Transource filed a Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) Application, pursuant to Sections 1101 and 1103 of the Public Utility Code, seeking approval and authority to furnish and supply electric transmission service and operate transmission facilities in Franklin County.

Also on May 21, 2026, Transource filed a Siting Application, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Section 57.72,² seeking approval and authority for the siting and construction of the new Rice-Ringgold 230 kV transmission line that would extend approximately 28.8 miles to connect the existing Ringgold Substation located near Smithsburg, Washington County, MD and the new Rice Substation to be located in Franklin County, PA. The proposed transmission line, inclusive of both the Pennsylvania and Maryland portions, is referred to as "Project 9A West" or the "9A West Project." Approximately 24.4 miles of the 9A West Project will be located in PA and 4.4 miles

¹ 52 Pa. Code § 5.61.

² 52 Pa. Code § 57.72.

will be located in MD. The PA portion will extend from the New Rice Substation to the PA-MD border.³

Also on May 21, 2026, Transource filed the Zoning Exemption Petition, pursuant to Section 619 of the Municipal Planning Code,⁴ in connection with the proposed construction of a proposed above-ground electric substation in Greene Township, Franklin County.

Simultaneously, on May 21, 2026, Transource filed a Motion, requesting that the CPC Application, Siting Application, and the Zoning Exemption Petition be consolidated for all purposes (Motion to Consolidate).⁵

On May 26, 2026, the Commission's Secretary's Bureau issued a Letter acknowledging receipt of the CPC Application, Siting Application, and the Zoning Exemption Petition and indicating that the filings would be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on June 13, 2026, and setting the deadline for responses to the CPC Application, Siting Application, and the Zoning Exemption Petition to be filed no later than August 12, 2026.

On June 3, 2026, a Notice of Telephonic Prehearing Conference was issued, scheduling a Prehearing Conference for August 19, 2026.

On June 13, 2026, the Siting Application and Zoning Exemption Petition⁶ and the CPC Application⁷ were published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

On June 25, 2026, the OCA filed Protests to the CPC Application and the Siting Application and an Answer to the Zoning Exemption Petition.

³ Transource PA CPC Application at 6.

⁴ 53 P.S. § 10619.

⁵ Motion ¶ 9.

⁶ 56 Pa.B. 3592 (including notice of both the Siting Application and Zoning Exemption Petition).

⁷ 56 Pa.B. 3593.

On July 2, 2026, Transource filed a letter (*July 2, 2026 Letter Request*) in response to the OCA's Answer in Opposition to inform the Commission that Transource: (1) intended to file and serve a timely reply to the OCA's Answer in Opposition; and, (2) requested that the Commission publish Notice of the Motion to Consolidate Proceedings and for Timely Disposition in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* as soon as possible and direct Transource to publish such Notice in newspapers of general circulation

Also on July 2, 2026, Transource filed Affidavits of Publication (Affidavits) of the Notice of the Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Subchapter G, for Approval of the Siting and Construction of the 230 kV Transmission Line Known as Project 9A West in a Portion of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, at Docket No. A-2026-3062686, along with Notice of the Petition of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC for Confirmation of an Exemption from Local Zoning Regulation and for the Construction of Buildings in Connection with the Construction of a Proposed Electric Substation in Greene Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, at Docket No. P-2026-3062687.

On July 15, 2026, Transource filed a document titled the Reply of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC to New Matter of Office of Consumer Advocate.

On July 29, 2026, Transource filed this Motion and served it to the parties using first-class mail. The OCA received this Motion on August 4, 2026.

On Monday, August 3, 2026, the ALJs filed two Orders, each titled Interim Order #1, that extended the Protest deadline to October 15, 2026, and rescheduled the Prehearing Conference to October 29, 2026.⁸

⁸ The two Orders are docketed at:

1. *Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57, Subchapter G, for Approval of the Siting and Construction of the 230 kV Transmission Line Known as Project 9A West in a*

II. ANSWER

The allegations in Transource's Motion are admitted and denied by the OCA consistent with the discussion below in this Answer. In addition, the OCA further states that: (a) no response is required to the legal conclusions in the Motion; and (b) as to any remaining factual averments contained in the Motion which are not expressly addressed by this Answer, the OCA denies them consistent with the responses and discussion herein.

1. Transource's Request for Publication

The OCA takes no position on Transource's Motion requesting Commission direction to publish notice of its prior Motion to Consolidate the CPC Application, Siting Application and the Zoning Petition. The Company made *this* Motion, requesting a Commission Order directing it to publish notice of its Motion to Consolidate, purportedly out of procedural due process concerns.⁹ According to Transource, due to the considerable number of Protests and Petitions to Intervene which expressed that the Commission should not grant the Company's Motion to Consolidate, the Company views the need to publish notice of its Motion to Consolidate to provide timely notice to all potentially impacted parties.¹⁰ The Company further requested that the publication of its Motion to Consolidate come through a Commission Order granting *this* Motion.¹¹

The OCA takes no position on the Company's Motion, so long as parties have the opportunity to: (1) submit an answer in writing to the Motion to Consolidate by the end of the

Portion of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, et al., Docket Nos: A-2026-3062686, *et al.*, Interim Order # 1 (Aug. 3, 2026).

2. *Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC for All of the Necessary Authority, Approvals and Certificate of Public Convenience to Begin to Offer, Render, Furnish and/or Supply Transmission Service in portions of Franklin County, Pennsylvania Necessary to Operate Transmission Facilities for Project 9A West; and for any Other Approvals Necessary*, Docket No. A-2026-3062675, Interim Order #1 (Aug. 3, 2026).

⁹ Motion ¶ 25.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Motion ¶¶ 27-28.

newly established protest period of October 15, 2026; (2) answer the Motion to Consolidate in writing in their Prehearing Memorandum, and/or (3) respond orally to the Motion to Consolidate at the on-the-record prehearing conference scheduled for October 29, 2026.

The OCA believes this is in line with the stated reasoning provided by the Company: “the Protest Period in these proceedings has not yet closed and the identity of potential future parties is not presently known.”¹² Indeed, maintaining an open window for parties to respond to the Motion to Consolidate allows any new interested parties the opportunity to file a Protest or Petition to Intervene with time to analyze the proceedings, including all filings, motions, and other matters. Consolidation of proceedings is routinely addressed in matters before the Commission at the first Prehearing Conference convened for the proceeding, and the significant number of parties proceeding *pro se* may prefer to make argument regarding whether the Motion to Consolidate should be granted or denied orally at the Prehearing Conference instead of submitting formal, legal pleadings regarding their positions. No party would be prejudiced if the presiding officers permitted parties to make argument on-the-record at the Prehearing Conference scheduled for this matter on the Motion to Consolidate before a disposition on the Motion to Consolidate is reached. Therefore, the OCA respectfully request that if the ALJs grant the request in this Motion, it do so with the additional considerations outlined above by the OCA.

2. Transource’s Request for a Shortened Answer Period

The Company made its Motion with the additional request for a shortened Answer period; however, the OCA believes the reason for the shortened answer period is no longer at issue, as each Interim Order #1 extended the protest period extended until October 15, 2026 for the CPC Application, Siting Application, and Zoning Petition. Therefore, this request should be denied.

¹² Motion ¶ 26

According to the Commission's regulations, Answers to Motions shall be filed within 20 days.¹³ The Company requested that the Answer period be reduced to 10 days.¹⁴ The Company's stated reason for requesting a shortened Answer period in response to *this* Motion was so it could publish notice of its Motion to Consolidate before the previous August 12, 2026, Protest deadline to provide interested parties as much time as possible to be aware of the Motion to Consolidate.¹⁵ In the August 3, 2026, Interim Orders #1, the ALJs extended the Protest and Intervention filing date from August 12, 2026 to Thursday, October 15, 2026, for all three, unconsolidated proceedings. This means the urgency for the shortened Answer period is no longer present, and therefore the request should be denied.

¹³ 52 Pa. Code § 5.61.

¹⁴ Motion ¶ 30.

¹⁵ Motion ¶ 19.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Office of Consumer Advocate respectfully requests that if the ALJs grant the Company's Motion, they do so subject to the following assurances, that parties will be able to: (1) submit an answer in writing to the Motion to Consolidate by the end of the newly established protest period of October 15, 2026; (2) answer the Motion to Consolidate in writing in their Prehearing Memorandum, and/or (3) respond orally to the Motion to Consolidate at the on-the-record prehearing conference scheduled for October 29, 2026. The OCA also respectfully request that the ALJs deny the Company's request for a shortened Answer period to its Motion in light of the Protest period being extended until October.

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