

535 Gauge Street
Phoenixville, PA 10460
13 October 2026

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Subject: Grid Modernization and Potential Redevelopment of Deactivated Energy Sites -
Cromby Generating Station (Docket Number M-2026-3059601)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My family currently resides in East Pikeland Township. The potential redevelopment of the Cromby Generating Station is a great concern to me for the following reasons:

1. Air quality: Southeastern Pennsylvania is currently classified as Serious Nonattainment for ozone and could potentially be reclassified as Severe. This may make obtaining the required Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) for a new major source of air pollution more difficult at the Cromby site.
2. Significant Residential Growth Since 2011: Since Cromby Generating Station ceased operations in 2011, nearly 1,000 residential units have been developed within three miles of the site and will be negatively impacted. Sensitive populations and community facilities nearby the Cromby site include:
 - a. Regency at Kimberton Glen, an active-adult community, is approximately 0.5 miles from Cromby.
 - b. Renaissance Academy Charter School, serving K–12 students with approximately 1,200 students, is also approximately 0.5 miles away.
 - c. Reservoir Park is approximately 0.35 miles from the Cromby property.
3. Environmental and Recreational Resources: The Schuylkill River Trail runs along the property, while Hidden River Park and Preserve, a 115-acre open-space property in East Pikeland Township, borders the Cromby site. This open space site is part of the PROST Plan for the township and the Plan details preserving this open space.
4. Traffic: Residential growth has increased traffic on Fillmore Avenue, Township Line Road, and Cromby Road, particularly around school arrival and dismissal times.
5. Nearby Energy Infrastructure: The Limerick Nuclear Power Plant is approximately six miles from Cromby, making the broader area an established energy-infrastructure corridor.
6. Community Priority: Redeveloping brownfield and former industrial sites can be beneficial, but redevelopment should be compatible with the area's growing residential community, existing infrastructure, environmental resources, and quality of life.

7. Possibility for Data Center Development and Construction: A political “hot button” issue for the 2026 General Election is data center development and the disregard of opposition to them by the billionaire class. I am absolutely opposed to the use of the Crombly Generating Station as a data center and will vote against any politician at any level of government who works to redevelop that property for use as a data center.
8. East Pikeland Township: Please see the enclosed letter from the Board of Supervisors, dated 06 October 2026. I support their view on this matter, and request that you also take them into consideration as you consider the use of the Crombly site.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donald W. Smith
535 Gauge Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460
Email: abidingdude1951@gmail.com
Mobile Phone: (856) 266-2381



October 7, 2026

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Re: Grid Modernization and Potential Redevelopment of Deactivated Energy Sites – Cromby
Generating Station

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the East Pikeland Township, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's consideration of grid modernization and the potential redevelopment of deactivated energy sites, including the former Cromby Generating Station in East Pikeland Township.

East Pikeland Township recognizes the importance of a reliable electric grid and responsible energy planning. However, we strongly urge the Commission to consider the irreplaceable value of the open space, natural resources, wildlife habitat, and sensitive species surrounding the Cromby property before supporting any redevelopment that would permanently alter these areas. However, any consideration of redevelopment at the Cromby site must account for the significant changes that have occurred in the surrounding community since the facility finally ceased operations in 2011.

The Township also asks that the PUC consider the region's serious ozone nonattainment status, the potential availability of Emission Reduction Credits, impacts to local roads and infrastructure, water and environmental resources, and the cumulative effects of any new development on nearby residents and community facilities.

Cromby is not an isolated industrial site. It is now surrounded by an established and growing community. Approximately 935 homes have been constructed within three miles of the site since Cromby's closure. The surrounding area also includes a senior community, a K–12 school serving approximately 1,200 students, parks, trails, and an increasingly active transportation network. East Pikeland's position is straightforward: the Commonwealth should not assume that a former industrial site must return to industrial use simply because it was historically used for that purpose. The site and its surrounding lands now exist within a growing residential community and within a landscape that contains valuable open space, natural resources, recreational opportunities, and sensitive wildlife habitat.

The Township is particularly concerned about preserving open space and maintaining the quality of life that residents have come to expect from this area. East Pikeland is actively developing its Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) Plan, with the Hidden River area representing an important component of the Township's long-term vision for environmental preservation. The future of the Cromby property should be considered within this broader planning context rather than viewed simply as an opportunity to reintroduce an industrial use to a former industrial site.

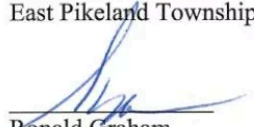
East Pikeland Township is not opposed to responsible investment in Pennsylvania's energy infrastructure. We are, however, asking that the future of the Cromby site be evaluated based on current conditions—not solely on the site's historical use as an electric generating station.

The community has changed substantially since Cromby closed. Any future proposal should reflect that reality.

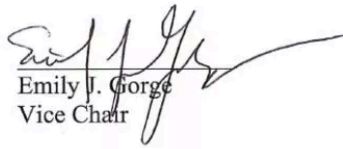
We respectfully request that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission include these considerations in its evaluation of grid modernization and potential redevelopment of the Commonwealth's deactivated energy sites, and that East Pikeland Township be included in future discussions concerning the Cromby property.

We appreciate the Commission's consideration and respectfully request that East Pikeland Township and its residents remain directly involved in any future discussions regarding the site's potential redevelopment.

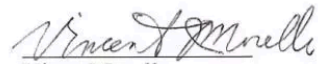
Respectfully submitted,
Board of Supervisors
East Pikeland Township



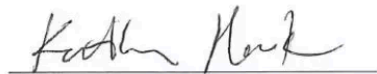
Ronald Graham
Chairman



Emily J. Gorge
Vice Chair



Vince Morello
Supervisor



Kathy Houck
Township Manager
East Pikeland Township

P.O. Box 58 ▪ 1158 Rapps Dam Road ▪ Kimberton, PA 19442
Telephone (610) 933-1770 ▪ Fax (610) 933-0919
www.eastpikeland.org