

2010 WL 4809891 (Pa.P.U.C.)
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Letter of Notification of Duquesne Light Company filed pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57.72 (d) for
Reconductoring and Increasing the Capacity of 2.21 miles of Transmission Line in Collier and Scott Townships
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Docket No. A-2010-2152048

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

November 19, 2010; Entered November 22, 2010

ORDER

Before Cawley, Chairman, Christy, Vice Chairman, Coleman, Jr., Gardner, and Powelson, Commissioners.

BY THE COMMISSION:

On April 13, 2007, Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line Company (“TrAILCo”), an indirect subsidiary of Allegheny Energy and an affiliate of West Penn Power Company, d/b/a Allegheny Power, filed an Application with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) in Docket Nos. A-110172, A-110172F0002, A-110172F0003, A-110172F0004, and G-00071229 requesting, in part, approval to build two transmission projects in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

On December 12, 2008, the Commission issued an Order at Docket Nos. A- 110172, *et al.*, (1) approving the Pennsylvania portions of a 500 kV transmission line from the proposed 502 Junction Substation to the Pennsylvania-West Virginia state line, (2) staying the application with regard to the construction of the Prexy Facilities consisting of the proposed Prexy Substation in Washington County, Pennsylvania, a 500 kV transmission line from the proposed 502 Junction Substation to the proposed Prexy Substation and three 138 kV lines from the Prexy Substation to Allegheny Power’s 138 kV system, and (3) approving a Partial Settlement Agreement providing for the formation of a voluntary collaborative (“Collaborative”) to develop a more cost-effective solution to the potential reliability violations presented in the Prexy area.

On July 13, 2009, certain active parties in Docket Nos. A-110172, *et al.*, submitted to the Commission a Joint Petition for Settlement for the purposes of settling the issues in that proceeding relating to the proposed Prexy Facilities. The proposed settlement reflected the consensus of the Collaborative. The proposed settlement includes the proposed work described in this Duquesne Light’s Letter of Notification. Although, not a party to Docket Nos. A-110172, *et al.*, at the time of the Collaborative deliberations, Duquesne Light agreed to the Statement of Consensus reached by the Collaborative and further agreed, subject to any required approvals by this Commission and appropriate cost recovery, to undertake the work on its transmission system necessary to implement the settlement. At its meeting of November 19, 2010, the Commission approved the Joint Petition for Settlement.

On January 8, 2010, Duquesne Light Company (“Duquesne Light”) in compliance with the agreement, filed a Letter of Notification (“LON”) pursuant to 52 Pa. Code §57.72(d)(1)(v) of the Commission’s transmission line siting regulations. Section 57.72 authorizes the abbreviated “Letter of Notification” siting application process in lieu of an application for the following:

- (i) An HV line which is proposed to be located entirely on an existing transmission line right-of-way, so long as the size, character, design, or configuration, of the proposed HV line does not substantially alter the right-of-way.
- (ii) An HV line which is proposed to be located entirely within a public road.
- (iii) An HV line which is proposed to be located entirely within applicant’s existing transmission line right-of-way and the property of the sole customer to be served by the line, so long as the size, character, design, or configuration of the proposed HV line does not substantially alter the right-of-way.
- (iv) A line for which the voltage is proposed to be increased above its present levels, so long as the size, character, design, or configuration of the proposed HV line does not substantially alter the right-of-way.
- (v) An HV which is to be reconducted or reconstructed so long as the size, character, design, or configuration of the

proposed HV line does not substantially alter the right-of-way.

(vi) An HV line having a proposed route of 2 miles or less.

Copies of the Letter of Notification were served in accordance with [Section 57.72\(d\)](#) (3) and [57.74](#) (b), on the PA Department of Transportation, PA Historical and Museum Commission, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Collier Township, Collier Township Planning Commission, Collier Township Board of Commissioners, Scott Township, Scott Township Planning Commission, Scott Township Board of Commissioners, Collier Township Municipal Authority and other interested parties as listed in the Certificate of Service attached to this filing.

The LON requested, *inter alia*, Commission approval to reconduct and increase the capacity of 2.21 miles of a double circuit 138 kilovolt (“kV”) transmission line connecting the Duquesne Light Collier Substation to the Duquesne Light Woodville Substation. These circuits are currently and will continue to be identified as “Collier-Woodville Z63 and Z64” (“Lines”). Duquesne Light also requested that its LON proceeding be consolidated with the Application of Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line Company (“TrAILCo”) at Docket Nos. A-110172, A-110172F0002, A-110172F0003, A-110172F0004, and G-00071229 because the LON addresses issues relating to the TrAILCo Application.

According to Duquesne Light, the Lines begin at Collier Substation in Collier Township and proceed a distance of 2.21 miles in a generally Southeasterly direction and end at Woodville Substation in Collier Township, Allegheny County. Approximately 10,717 feet of the Line is within Collier Township and 800 feet is within Scott Township, Allegheny County. Approximately 60% of the Line is located on existing 85-foot rights-of-way, 37% is located on existing centerline rights-of-way. Approximately 3% of the Line is located on Duquesne Light property and by railroad permit.

Duquesne Light proposes to increase the capacity of each circuit of the line by reconducting the line with new conductors, 795 kcmil Aluminum Conductor Stainless Steel High Strength Trapezoidal Wire (“ACSS/HS/TW”) conductor, which is a high-temperature, low-sag conductor. This will increase the capacity of each circuit from 1028 amperes to 1500 amperes under non-emergency summer operating conditions.

The existing 138 kV line consists of thirteen (13) double circuit lattice steel towers constructed in the late 1960’s. The height of the towers and the span lengths will remain the same. The height of the existing towers ranges between 93 feet and 156 feet above the ground. Existing span lengths range from 121.5 to 1762.1 feet, with typical span lengths varying between 500 and 1000 feet. The maximum span length is 1762.1 feet between towers 4319 and 4320.

The Lines will continue to be three-phase alternating current transmission lines. Each circuit consists of three phase conductors with one shield wire for a total of six conductors and two shield wires. Each phase conductor will be comprised of 795 kcmil Aluminum Conductor Stainless Steel High Strength Trapezoidal Wire (“ACSS/HS/TW”), which is a high temperature, low-sag conductor. The shield wire will be 7 #8 Alumoweld (“AL WD”) conductor. No new construction, reconstruction, or major modifications will be required to reconductor the existing 138 kV Lines.

Duquesne Light states that by reconducting these two lines, it will ensure continued reliability to customers within the region served by PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (“PJM”), while fulfilling its obligations to the PJM regional transmission planning process, which called for a solution to reliability violations in the Allegheny Power Transmission Zone, adjacent to the Duquesne Light Transmission Zone.

Duquesne Light states that the proposed Lines will be designed, constructed, operated and maintained to meet or exceed the requirements of the 2007 edition of the NESC. The safety standards contained in the NESC relating to overhead electric supply lines have been incorporated into the design of the proposed Lines as minimum safety standards as to required clearances and structural loadings. The operation and maintenance procedures for these Lines conform to Duquesne Light’s transmission and distribution construction standards and Duquesne Light’s procedures for line clearance and vegetation management on rights-of-way. These standards meet or exceed all relevant NESC standards and all standards of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Duquesne Light also states that the proposed increase in capacity of the Lines will not substantially alter the right-of-way. The Lines have existed and operated in their present location since the late 1960s and in their present configuration since 1970. The size, character, design, or configuration of the Lines and supporting structures will not change to increase the capacity of the Lines. The existing right-of-way agreements are written for a “transmission system for the conveyance and distribution of electric current.” The route of the transmission line will remain unchanged.

Duquesne Light states that the project which is estimated to cost \$2,100,000 is proposed to begin fourth quarter 2010 or first quarter 2011 and be in service by June 2011.

As stated earlier, Duquesne Light requested that its LON proceeding be consolidated with the Application of Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line Company (“TrAILCo”) at Docket Nos. A-110172, A-110172F0002, A-110172F0003, A-110172F0004 and G-00071229.

On January 18, 2010, TrAILCo and West Penn Power Company filed a letter reply to Duquesne Light’s LON. In the letter reply, TrAILCo and West Penn Power Company indicated that they support both the relief requested by Duquesne Light in the LON and consolidation of the Duquesne Light LON proceeding with the TrAILCo proceedings at the above-referenced docket numbers.

On February 22, 2010, ALJ Mark A. Hoyer accepted the assignment of Duquesne Light’s LON proceeding. No other responses or protests were filed in Duquesne Light’s LON proceeding at Docket No. A-2010-2152048.

By letter dated February 26, 2010 and filed in this Duquesne Light LON proceeding, TrAILCo and West Penn Power Company requested that the TrAILCo proceedings and this Duquesne Light LON proceeding not be consolidated. TrAILCo and West Penn Power Company claim in the letter that Duquesne Light joins in the request. TrAILCo and West Penn also requested in the letter that this LON proceeding be referred to the Commission’s Bureau of Fixed Utility Services for prompt review and action.

On March 29, 2010, Duquesne Light filed a Request to Present Evidence in the Application of Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line Company at Docket Nos. A-110172, A-110172F0002, A-110172F0003, A-110172F0004, and G-00071229. By letter dated June 23, 2010, and filed in the TrAILCo proceeding, Duquesne Light withdrew its request to present evidence and indicated that it fully supports the proposed settlement filed on July 13, 2009, in the TrAILCo proceeding.

On July 12, 2010, ALJ Mark A. Hoyer issued an Interim Order¹ denying Duquesne Light’s request for consolidation set forth in the LON, and referring the case to the Commission’s Bureau of Fixed Utility Services for disposition.

- 1 “It is appropriate for Duquesne Light’s unprotested LON to be reviewed first by the Commission’s Bureau of Fixed Utility Services. After said review, the Commission can either grant approval of Duquesne Light’s LON without the application process set forth in the Commission’s siting regulations, 52 Pa. Code §57.71 *et seq.*, being followed or disapprove the LON and require Duquesne Light to follow the application process set forth in the regulations. At this time, there is no need for an evidentiary hearing on Duquesne Light’s LON. There is no need to consolidate Duquesne Light’s LON with the TrAILCo proceeding. Therefore, Duquesne Light’s request for consolidation set forth in the Letter of Notification of Duquesne Light Company (A-2010-2152048) is denied is hereby referred to the Commission’s Bureau of Fixed Utility Services for disposition”

Upon review, the commission finds that Duquesne Light’s LON and manner in which it was filed conforms to the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(1)(v) because the size, character, design, or configuration of the HV line to be reconducted does not alter the right-of-way. Moreover, the Commission has reviewed the filing and does not find it to be inconsistent with the applicable law or Commission policy regarding transmission line citing; **THEREFORE,**

IT IS ORDERED:

That the Letter of Notification filed by Duquesne Light Company for reconducting and increasing the capacity of 2.21 miles of transmission line in Collier and Scott Townships, Allegheny County, PA, is hereby approved.

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