

## **Proposed Perry County Transmission Lines** Community Meeting Minutes

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### **Review of Current Knowledge**

Carolyn kicked off the meeting by sharing her experience with PPL. She also presented a website that was created in order to add transparency to PPL's planned updates in Perry County and provide a digital library of resources that could help individuals understand the various entities that may have some persuasion with PPL.

The following is a list of some known transmission line updates mentioned during the meeting. Either a widening of existing transmission lines or a new line altogether:

- Juniata – Honey grove
- Juniata – Sunbury
- Krammer – Juniata
- PeCo line

Carolyn also shared another website related to electric updates within the state of Virginia which references Pennsylvania state, regional, and federal agencies which oversee transmission lines. It contains a slide deck with an overview of each of these agencies and one entity could advocate for our group: the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate, or OCA.

### **Interactions with PPL**

One participant shared that the new easement agreement PPL has given them would allow PPL to lease the right-of-way to *third-party* entities. It's likely part of everyone's new easement contract. It directly states the potential for fiber optics but seems open-ended enough that it could be any utility. It does not include any language on who receives the royalties for such a lease, it's assumed that PPL likely would.

The easement language also includes several other items of concern: landowners would be prohibited from constructing various things within the new right-of-way; PPL is reserving the right to use pesticides on landowner's vegetation, and there's not much regarding specifics of the development PPL wishes to build. The participant mentioned that they wanted to change language in the survey agreement AND the easement and have not heard back from their PPL representative.

Another participant with an existing 350-foot right-of-way and two 500kV lines mentioned they received their PPL folder about two months ago. They wrote to PPL the next day with the following questions: How is the right of way determined and why is an additional 250 feet required for one additional line of towers (which are narrower in width) when the two existing lines only have 175 feet each? 2. Have engineers referenced any information regarding how close these lines can safely get to a home? 3. Is there any data on what this might do to a pacemaker (which they have)? 4. Has PPL considered moving the lines to the other side of the right of way which would be further from their house? – They have not heard from PPL since sending them these questions.

Others shared concern that the new right-of-way would include their home. They had a PPL right-of-way agent, James, at their home last week and spoke with him for hours. James was insistent that homes could not be taken, but the language within the PPL folder that landowners have been given seems to contradict this.

### **Potential Avenues of Action**

Pennsylvania State Representative Perry Stambaugh recommended reaching out to the Office of Consumer Advocate, they would be the best path forward. He also shared that he is aware of town halls for some of the proposed transmission projects, including one in July or August for the Juniata Sunbury project and another in December.

Someone asked Representative Stambaugh if the Public Utility Commission's 5 commissioners have any other entities that hold them accountable. Stambaugh stated that the Senate must approve the commissioners, but otherwise the Office of Consumer Advocate is meant to be a voice for Pennsylvanians that can advocate to the Public Utility Commission. The Office of Consumer Advocate should be willing to assist with a good path forward on how to address the group's concerns. Representative Stambaugh recommended that the group reach out to Daryl Laurence.

Someone stated that after a list of concerns from everyone has been generated, it could be given to the Perry County commissioners, who could then reach out to OCA. They stated that the group is probably not getting answers because the people they are reaching out to, the PPL representatives, likely do not even know the answers.

## List of Concerns

Carolyn asked for any other concerns to be added to a letter. Concerns that were brought up include:

- How was the right-of-way width determined?
- What's the process that PPL used to select the routes for these rights-of-way?
- How did PPL determine that all this added transmission was necessary and what other options have they vetted?
- Is the intended purpose to support datacenters? And if so, where are these centers going?
- If new transmission lines are to be paid by new data centers but the data centers don't get built, who pays for the lines?
- Why won't PPL agree to stipulate what they are surveying for and what they will be doing with the land taken through the easement? Why must "but is not limited to" be included in all their contracts? Why will they not even commit letting the landowner know when someone will be visiting their property?

Someone asked Representative Stambaugh if the state legislature is looking to give data centers eminent domain power. They have been contacted by a data center to buy their land and the developers said they need 1,000 acres immediately and are ultimately looking to own 2,500 acres eventually. They are concerned that these data center developers could use eminent domain to take their home. Someone else stated that data centers are looking to become public utilities so that they have the same authority as PPL.

Representative Stambaugh shared concern for a new 765kV line coming from WV. He believes that the state Office of Consumer Advocate and the state Public Utility Commission could end up butting heads with the regional grid operator, Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland (PJM), over this line. It will likely require an entirely new substation near the existing Juniata substation outside of New Bloomfield.

Participants briefly discussed their interactions with some attorneys. They seemed to have a consistent response: PPL likely cannot be stopped IF the Public Utility Commission has already approved the transmission lines, but the contracts PPL wants everyone to sign should be able to be negotiated. Someone asked if any of the lines being discussed have been approved. No one was aware of any of them getting PUC approval.