

# Background educational information for York County Public Input Hearings

## Suggested format for your testimony:

*“Thank you Judges Barnes and Calvelli (or ‘your honors’) for the opportunity to speak today against the proposed power lines in my community.”* <Talk about how it impacts you> <Talk about the reasons that the line should not be built> <End with impact> *“Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide my input. I urge you to please reject Transource's application.”*

## Effective Testimony:

The most effective testimony will have:

- **A personal element** – Tell your story and how this project negatively impacts your family or business.
- **Other facts or opinions** that could be used in legal arguments to defeat the power line project.

You may want to spend about two-thirds of the time talking about the impact on your family or business. Expert witnesses have been hired by opponents of the project to discuss the technical and cost issues so what the judges need to hear most is how the project affects YOU.

We have suggested points below under certain categories that you could cover, in addition to explaining the impact on you. You should choose *one or two* points that you are most comfortable discussing. **Please say these things in your own words**. There will be enough people testifying that all of these points are likely to be covered multiple times.

## Sacrifices of PA Landowners Would Allow Other States to See Cost Benefits

- **The transmission line was proposed as a “market efficiency” project.** It is not needed to ensure reliability. No one’s lights are going off! Its only purpose is to reduce the electric rates of people in the DC metro area. [Talk about how this makes you feel and why it is a bad idea to hurt us to help them.]<sup>1</sup>
- **Pennsylvania land is being used to benefit a multi-state area, with no benefits to York County.** The project has been described as necessary to reduce transmission congestion constraints (or lower electric costs) in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. Yet, of the 66 parcels of land affected by the eastern portion, 53 of them are in this small section of York County, Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup>
- **Over 80% of the eastern portion of the project would be built in Pennsylvania to address transmission constraints elsewhere.** Transource has described the transmission constraints as originating in West Virginia and terminating in Maryland and Virginia, which would reduce

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1 See pg 23 of Transource's [filing](#).

2 See pg 32 of PJM's [2016 TEAC recommendation](#).

electric costs for the DC area. Yet, 12.7 of the 15.8 miles for the eastern portion of the project are in York County, Pennsylvania.

- **Pennsylvania landowners should not bear the burden of Maryland’s failed energy policy.** Maryland imports almost half of its electricity, and continues to import more every year. Maryland keeps shutting its coal plants because they say they are dirty. Maryland sues the EPA to enforce stricter air standards in Pennsylvania while begging for Pennsylvania for more power. It doesn’t make sense for PA landowners to bail out Maryland for its failed energy policy.<sup>3</sup>
- **People in neighboring states are not entitled to cheaper electricity that is possible due to sacrifices of PA landowners.** People who live near the power plants SHOULD pay less than people who live far away. People who live hundreds of miles away in three other states should not be able to rely on 38 landowners in York County, PA to obtain lower electric rates.
- **Taking electricity out of Pennsylvania and moving it to Maryland will mean less electricity in Pennsylvania.** It seems that less electricity means higher prices in Pennsylvania. This will only aggravate the situation that will occur if prices of electricity increase here in Pennsylvania if Three Mile Island closes as planned.

### Economic Analysis Does Not Justify Project

- **PJM’s economic analysis does not support construction of this project.** The most recent economic analysis from PJM shows that *this project has a Benefit to Cost ratio of 1.32. PJM won't approve a project over 1.25. This is a highly mediocre project even by PJM's own ranking.* I question why they are wasting our time and money with it. It seems that they are just trying to make money for the electric companies.<sup>4</sup>
- **All of the economic analysis done by PJM to justify this project did NOT include the costs to landowners.** The analysis also did not include the loss of tax revenue by the school district as affected properties lose value. PJM only included the electric costs and benefits, and that is not a good analysis.
- **Don't try to justify this project with “local jobs”.** Transource bought a study for PR purposes that said the project might add jobs. All jobs would be temporary, almost help would come from far away, the analysis did not consider the harm to local businesses, and spending money unnecessarily is always a bad idea.<sup>5</sup>

### Existing Lines Are Sufficient

- **Pennsylvania just built a huge pipeline to move natural gas into Maryland through Lancaster County.** It seems they could build their own power plants using that gas.<sup>6</sup>

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3 See pg 38 of PJM's [2016 MD & DC Report](#).

4 See pg 6 of PJM [2/18 Market Efficiency Update](#)

5 See [this](#) for analysis and [this](#) for York Dispatch article

- **There are two power lines within 2 miles of here (Airville) that both go to Maryland.** They only have power lines on ONE side of the poles. *I am not aware if those lines have even been considered as an option, but they should have been.*<sup>7</sup>
- **The PPL/BGE power lines are only half used.** Transource should be required to use the PPL/BGE power lines that are being under-used. If there aren't any such rules, and they can get away with building a new line, then what is to stop more lines from coming as every company tries to stake its claim for future growth? The PUC MUST consider this precedent.

### Putting Preserved Property in Jeopardy

- **Many of the properties along this proposed route are preserved.** Landowners gave up the right to develop the land, but yet are under threat of having the land seized by the state for development of power lines. This is not right!
- **If you seize preserved land for power lines, you risk alienating anyone who would want to preserve his or her land.** It will mean fewer conservation easements, and the ones that are made will be more expensive.
- **Preserving a farm makes it a target.** Transource has admitted that they seek to impact the fewest number of landowners. The result is that those of us who have preserved our farm have put ourselves in greater jeopardy of having it impacted.

### Effect on Local Agribusinesses

- **The line hurts our local agribusinesses.** Transource had hundreds of miles of options, yet they managed to hit the largest orchards and horseback riding businesses in this part of the county. Their siting process doesn't seem to value local businesses that rely on the environment, or all of the public input that ask them not to touch these places.
- **The Siting Study reaches incorrect conclusions about orchards.** It suggests that orchards can still grow. However, that conclusion overlooks the adverse impacts on orchards, such as health and safety concerns, as well as the reliance on these pick your own orchards of a pristine environment.
- **The Siting Study is wrong about the use of monopoles versus lattice as addressing concerns about aesthetics.** The sheer size of the equipment, which cuts a swath of 130 feet and includes 71 structures with an average height of 135 feet, means that the project will disrupt the view shed.

### This Area Has Done Its Part

- **We have done more than our part for this region.** Our river area supports four hydroelectric dams (York Haven, Safe Harbor, Holtwood, and Conowingo), two nuclear reactors (TMI and Peach Bottom), one coal & gas plant (Brunner Island), and several gas-powered plants. We need to start saying no more often.

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6 See [this](#) for a map. And [this](#) for a description of the Williams Transco line, part of Atlantic Sunrise.

7 See [editorial](#) for description, and a picture [here](#).

- **The PUC should take notice that no one has agreed to sell an easement south of the substation.** Eminent Domain should only be used sparingly... using it against the majority of landowners is something you'd see in China or Russia, not the USA. Freedom and personal property should mean something here!