



## MONROE TOWNSHIP

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July 8, 2016

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

Shawn Mantz, Project Manager  
PPL Electric Utilities  
Two North Ninth Street  
Allentown, PA 18101-1179

Re: PPL Williams Grove – Mechanicsburg (69kv) Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Mantz:

Thank you for the letter dated July 1, 2016 in which you responded to our request that PPL provide Monroe Township with an analysis on an underground transmission line for the referenced project.

In your letter you state the following: A vast majority of PPL Electric Utilities' power lines are above ground; the costs can be up to 10 times more expensive to bury a transmission line and; PPL has an obligation to keep costs reasonable.

Monroe Township has an obligation to protect, conserve and preserve its environment, natural resources and agricultural lands. It is our belief that PPL has a responsibility to research *all* possible alternatives, utilize existing structures where possible, reach the *best* possible solution which has the *least* environmental impact and is not based solely on what is more costly.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission published the 2014-2019 Electric Power Outlook for Pennsylvania in August 2015. The report concluded that sufficient generation, transmission and distribution capacity exists to reasonably meet the needs of Pennsylvania's electricity consumers for the foreseeable future. This report also includes information specific to PPL indicating that over the next five years, total energy usage is projected to decrease at an average annual rate of 0.3 percent. This includes a decrease in average annual residential usage of 1.1 percent.

PPL has not provided Monroe Township with documentation showing the need exists for the Williams Grove – Mechanicsburg (69kv) project, nor has it provided information showing all possible alternatives have been explored. The underground analysis was conducted only when requested by Monroe Township. This option was not considered by PPL because as PPL stated during our meeting of June 9, "underground transmission is at the bottom of our toolbox." While underground lines are harder to locate and repair, they are protected from wind, ice and tree damage that commonly cause outages.

Utilities and communities around the country frequently work together to weigh the issue of whether to bury power lines. Many utility companies work hand in hand with communities, allowing the residents to express their opinion, be a part of the decision, and in some instances donate ROW to utility companies for buried transmission lines to help offset the costs of the projects.

During our meeting on June 9, PPL came prepared to deliver the four possible routes as the only options to Monroe Township. When the township raised questions on alternatives, it was clear that discussion surrounding any other option was not to be had.

After reviewing the basic underground analysis on this project, we still believe Route C to be the best possible route of the four, and recommends PPL work with the landowner and PennDot on the ROW. It is our understanding that underground installation of the transmission line along the state-owned road (Winding Hill Road) has not been offered as an option to the landowner. Paragraph 4 of the agricultural easement states the granting of rights-of-way by the Grantor through the subject land for the installation of utilities is permitted.

This is the shortest route with least impact and harm to Monroe Township's environment, natural resources, and agricultural lands. Based on PPL's costs estimates per mile, ROW costs, and tree clearing, Route C with approximately 2,000 feet of underground installation compared to Route E with all above ground installation is similar in cost.

Monroe Township would like to request a meeting that includes Upper Allen Township and Cumberland County to further discuss this project.

Sincerely,



Carl Kuhl  
Township Supervisor



Philip Kehoe  
Township Supervisor



A.W. Castle, III  
Township Supervisor

cc: Mike Pykosh, Solicitor  
Jessica Long, PPL  
Representative Michael Reagan  
Senator Patricia Vance  
Upper Allen Township  
Cumberland County Planning