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PPL Electric Utilities  
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**August 21, 2025**

**Luzerne County Council**

**RE: Transmission Line Project – Public Meeting Comments**

Dear Council Members,

PPL Electric Utilities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding the transmission line project and resolution that is scheduled for discussion at your upcoming public meeting. We value the County's interest in this important infrastructure initiative and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective.

The proposed Sugarloaf Project is designed to meet the growing electricity demand in Luzerne County and support long-term economic development. As you are aware, the greater Hazleton area continues to attract manufacturers and large power users, and we anticipate electricity demand in the region to grow significantly — up to 16 times current levels by 2030.

To meet this demand, PPL Electric plans to construct approximately 12 miles of new transmission line and two new switchyards, utilizing an existing right-of-way corridor to minimize environmental and community impact. This project will enhance reliability and resilience for all customers in the region and is part of a broader effort to modernize the electric grid.

We understand that new infrastructure can raise concerns, and we are committed to working closely with landowners to minimize impacts. Our approach includes fair compensation for easements, transparent communication and ongoing landowner and stakeholder engagement. The project will require review and approval from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), and we anticipate construction to begin in spring 2026 with completion by fall 2027.

After reviewing a draft of the proposed Luzerne County resolution, PPL Electric would like to clarify the following points to address questions and concerns expressed:

- There is a need for the project to support the exponential economic growth in the northeastern Pennsylvania region. As a public utility, PPL Electric has an obligation to serve all customers. When there is projected load growth in an area, we are required to take prudent steps to meet that demand; the company does not get to pick and choose which customers it wishes to serve.
- There will not be a 200-foot-wide service road. Instead, PPL Electric will use existing service roads from the prior 69 kV transmission line to the extent practical. New access roads may also be installed as needed to support the construction and operation of the line. Typical access roads are approximately 20 feet wide, and if the company does not have permanent access road rights, it will restore the access road to its prior condition when construction is complete.
- PPL Electric is not creating a new transmission corridor. The project, as proposed, utilizes an existing corridor operating on easements the company has held for over a century.

- While PPL Electric seeks to use existing right-of-way (ROW) to build the new line, we have sought to widen the existing ROW to 200 feet to reduce the number and height of structures required for the new line. This widening is pursued in part to lessen the impact on landowners.
- The new line is not disrupting pristine land. It will utilize an existing transmission corridor that, until recently, had a transmission line in place. To the extent houses now exist near the corridor, they were built after the transmission easement was established, with full knowledge of PPL Electric's rights on the property. In addition, we have no evidence that there is a long-term effect on property values from a project like this.
- There is no threat to the environment. Our track record shows that we work cooperatively with regulatory agencies, obtain all required permits and meet all environmental requirements and regulations under the terms of our permits. Once built, the transmission line involves minimal activity, and its environmental impact is minimal.
- The health and safety concerns as articulated in the resolution are misguided. PPL Electric safely operates thousands of miles of transmission lines across its service territory, including areas more densely populated than the Sugarloaf Valley region. All lines are constructed in accordance with applicable safety standards.
- Additionally, the alternative routes listed in the draft resolution are not viable solutions. These proffered routes would be more disruptive from land use, environmental and constructability standpoints, or would violate PJM reliability criteria. The proposed alternatives are also within the Nescopeck/Sugarloaf Valley region, and changing the route would shift the impact from one group of landowners to another. As such, without new information, the Company at this time has no plans to either pause this project or choose an alternative route, since the route we will be submitting to the PUC later this year is the one that has the least environmental and community impact.

PPL Electric looks forward to continued dialogue with Council members and landowners who have questions or concerns about this project. Customers and the community can access information about the project online at [sugarloafproject.com](http://sugarloafproject.com), where a dedicated email address is also available. We believe that open dialogue is essential and welcome the opportunity to provide additional information and address any issues directly.

I respectfully ask that you include this letter as part of the record of the meeting that the proposed resolution is discussed. Thank you again for your engagement and for considering these comments. We look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue with Luzerne County, its Council and its residents.

Sincerely,

*Shelby A. Linton-Keddie*

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