

January 23, 2018

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary PA Public Utility  
Commission Commonwealth Keystone Bldg.  
400 North Street

Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Application of Transource Pennsylvania,  
LLC Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57,

Subchapter G, for Approval of the Siting and  
Construction of the 230 kV Transmission Line  
Associated with the Independence Energy  
Connection-East Project in Portions of York  
County, Pennsylvania

Docket No. A-2017-2640195

**RECEIVED**

FEB 15 2018

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

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PROTEST

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Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Sections 5.51, *et seq.* and 66 Pa. C.S. Sections 1101, *et seq.*, Kristin C. Thomas files this Protest to the Transource Filing Docket No. A-2017-2640195. In support of this Protest Kristin C. Thomas avers as follows:

1. The name and contact information of the Protestant is as follows: Kristin C. Thomas of 12951 Workinger Road, Brogue, PA 17309
2. My interest in this project is as a member of the fourth generation of Downs Acres in Lower Chanceford Township, York County, Pennsylvania. I was born into the Downs family in 1973. The family farm, Downs Acres, was first purchased by my great-grandparents in 1913 and farmed by them during the Depression. When my grandfather returned home after serving in WW II, my grandparents became part of the farming operation. In 2002, under my 88-year-old grandmother's leadership, it was placed in the Ag Preservation Program. Upon her death in 2005 the Elsie Downs estate became part of my legacy as a preserved family farm.
3. The grounds for our protest of this proposal:
  - a. This power line limits the options for future farming enterprises. Everyday prime farmland is being turned into developments instead of crops. We, along with our parents and members of the fifth generation, old enough to comprehend the concept, want our ground to remain farmland forever assuring a way of life we cherish will continue for generations to come.

- b. Being preserved farmland, we are allowed only one lot on these 190.759 acres to be used for a dwelling. Presently there are seven members in the fourth generation and seventeen in the fifth who have given up the possibility of ever building on the "homestead." And yet, Transource thinks they should be able to take 10.44 acres to install an unneeded power line as there is already an existing power line right of way through our community that is NOT being fully utilized. The only reason we can see for Transource NOT to use the existing power line capacity is that they do not make as big a profit from doing so. This project is NOT for public good. It's for corporate profit.
  - c. The power line has been denied access to game lands because of disruption it would cause to the natural habitat of the wildlife of the area. This farm has the Muddy Creek, a well-known trout stream, flowing through it. Beaver build dams on our property. Bog turtles inhabit the wetlands. We have eagles nesting on our farm along with bluebirds, orioles, hummingbirds and our feeders attract numerous species 365 days a year. Rabbits and squirrels are frequently seen as well as nightly raccoons and opossums. Less frequently seen, but occasionally, are ring-necked pheasants and quail. Deer, wild turkey, and wild geese feast abundantly on our crops. Bear have ravaged the sweet corn in our garden. Fox, coyotes and bobcats serenade us at night. A raccoon hunter, and the Game Warden, have spotted wild boar.
4. This directly affects us by:
- a. Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms and acres permanently preserved for agricultural production. The York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board was appointed by the York County Commissioners in 1990 with the goal to protect agricultural resources through the strategic preservation of economically viable farms. There are many acres of preserved farmland joining us. In fact, following the proposed route, thousands of acres of preserved land are involved. Taxpayers have paid for the easements to these farms to save valuable farmland. The farm families have given up possible lucrative gain from selling land for development in order that farming has a future. When you sit down to a meal, think of the food that has been provided by a farmer. But Transource is choosing to cross preserved farmland for the profit of a commercial business with NO CONNECTION to our community. Transource's primary purpose is to make money for its shareholders.
  - b. A high power voltage line is a big concern for our family and animals. Lines of this sort are linked to health risks we currently do not face. Stray shocks have been demonstrated by Transource's parent company AEP! And, lightning strikes have been prominent in our area! We have forty herd of cattle grazing our pasture from April through November and a portion of the power line is to cross the pasture. We lost a dairy barn, along with other buildings and cattle, in 1965 due to a lightning strike. Will Transource PA cover our losses in the future if their lines attract more lightning strikes?

WHEREFORE, Kristin C. Thomas respectfully requests Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to investigate the filing, and strongly impose a condition that all other existing rights of way and infrastructure should be utilized before any new power line projects are approved, and **the Commission should deny the Transource filing.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin C. Thomas".

Kristin C. Thomas

**BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY  
COMMISSION**

Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC  
Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57,  
Supchapter G, for Approval of the Siting and  
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VERIFICATION

I, Kristin C. Thomas,

hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct (or are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief) and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: 01/28/2018

Signature: Kristin C. Thomas

Address:

12951 Workinger Rd  
Brogue  
PA 17309

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Re: Application of Transource Pennsylvania, LLC Filed Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code Chapter 57 Subchapter G, for Approval of the Siting and Construction of the 230kV Transmission Line Associated with the Independence Energy Connection-East Project in Portions of York County, Pennsylvania  
Docket No. A-2017-2640195

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document, the Office of Consumer Advocate's Protest and Public Statement to Transource Pennsylvania, LLC, upon parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant), in the manner and upon the persons listed below:  
Dated this 10th day of January 2018

**SERVICE BY E-MAIL and FIRST CLASS MAIL**

The Honorable Elizabeth H. Barnes  
The Honorable Andrew M. Calvelli  
Administrative Law Judges  
PO Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Counsel for  
Office of Consumer Advocate  
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Harrisburg, PA 17101-1601

Antonio Smyth  
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1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor  
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