

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

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FEB 15 2018

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

PROTEST

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

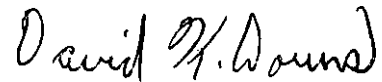
1. The name and contact information of the Protestant is as follows: David K. Downs of 1725 Woodbine Road, Airville, PA 17302
2. My interest in this project is as one of the farmers of preserved farmland and a resident of Lower Chanceford Township, York County, PA. The land we farm is Downs Acres. My Dad's brother, Jack Downs, became a part of the farming operation at Downs Acres upon returning home from WW II. Shortly thereafter my Dad and Uncle Jack went into partnership sharing machinery and labor. Upon their retirement we resumed farming our home place and Down Acres for the family members that inherited the Elsie Downs estate.
3. The grounds for our protest of this proposal:
 - a. This power line limits the options for future farming enterprises. Every day prime farmland is being turned into developments instead of crops. Our parents had our farmland preserved also. Therefore we understand and empathize with the steps and sacrifices made by the owners of Downs Acres to have it remain farmland forever assuring a way of life we cherish will continue for generations to come.
 - b. Being preserved farmland only one lot on these 190.759 acres is allowed 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 this property. Bog turtles inhabit the wetlands. There are eagles nesting along with bluebirds, orioles, hummingbirds and 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 the crops we plant. Bear have ravaged the garden sweet corn. Fox, coyotes and bobcats serenade at night. Wild boar have been spotted.
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 this farm. 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 us as the farmers of this land. Lines of this sort are linked to health risks. Stray shocks have been demonstrated by Transource's parent company AEP! And, lightning strikes have been prominent in this area! Forty herd of our cattle graze pasture on this farm from April through November and a portion of the power line is to cross the pasture. In 1965 this farm lost a dairy barn, granary, milk house and cattle due to a lightning strike. Will Transource PA cover losses in the future if their lines attract more lightning strikes?

WHEREFORE, David K. Downs 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 "David K. Downs". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

David K. Downs

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
555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

Amanda Riggs Conner, Esq. Hector Garcia, Esq.
American Electric Power Service 1 Riverside
Plaza, 29th Floor Columbus, OH 43215

David B. MacGregor, Esq. Christopher T.
Wright, Esq. Anthony D. Kanagy, Esq. Post &
Schell PC th 17 North Second Street, 12
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1601

Antonio Smyth
Transource Pennsylvania LLC
1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

**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
Construction of the 230 kV Transmission Line
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VERIFICATION

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

I, David K. Downs

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: 2 / 15 / 18

Signature: David K. Downs

Address:

1725 Woodbine Rd.

Airville Pa 17302