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The Honorable Elizabeth H. Barnes
Administrative Law Judge
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 N. Street
Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Dear Judge Barnes:

I have had the privilege of testifying before you on two occasions, once in New Franklin and once in Harrisburg. My focus on both occasions was on what I believe is the misapplication of the Power of Eminent Domain because of the absence of the "Public Need or the Public Good."

More recently, I have continued my research on this issue and have concluded that recently passed laws in each of the states in the target market will virtually prohibit electric utilities in those states from buying conventional power from The Transource Power line.

Maryland, Virginia, The District of Columbia, New Jersey and West Virginia all have new laws requiring that a certain percentage of total power demand must be met by Renewables, not by conventional power sources.

Renewables are generated locally and Transource Power won't be needed any time in the future. In fact, utilities will reduce conventional output in order to use the appropriate level of renewables. Further, in all likelihood, the State Requirements for Renewables percentage will be increased in the future as has been happening in California (and even in some countries)!

So, please read the enclosed paper and you will conclude that the Transource Power line is obsolete before it is built!

Also, I would like to call to your attention a major article from the Wall Street Journal, April 27-28, regarding the plans by PG&E to cut power services to fire-prone areas this summer during the dry season. As you know, PG&E is in bankruptcy because state fire investigators determined that PG&E equipment played a role in starting 18 wild fires that killed 22 people in 2017. Could this happen in Pennsylvania? Of course it could. All you need is a combination of high winds and dry conditions in grassy fields or dry wood lots. The risk is overwhelming and should not be undertaken especially since there is no market for the Transource Power.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely



Dr. Richard L. Lesher

Retired President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

1126 Cider Press Road

Chambersburg, PA 17202

WHY THE TRANSOURCE PROJECT SHOULD BE ABANDONED

The Market for That Power Has Disappeared

The initial planning for Transource Project took place approximately 3 years ago. Since that time major changes have taken place in the electric power industry.

After decades of continuous growth in electrical power consumption, the last several years have shown a decrease in power consumption from coast to coast. The first reason for the decline is due to advancements in technology. LED lighting consumes far less wattage than the old lights. Many other improvements including major reduction in power usage by modern appliances – everything from refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc. and including new efficiencies in home construction, insulation, thermopane windows etc. And, we see just the beginning of those savings which will continue to decrease the demand for electricity as the new technologies are introduced by more and more people.

Even one trend running counter to these savings, the introduction of the electric car, will hardly make a difference. Most electricity used by electric automobiles will be during overnight charging.

Renewables

A far more important impact on the power industry is the impact of renewables, principally Wind and Solar power, but including Biomass and Geo-thermal. Wind and Solar were unheard of at the turn of the century. California was the first to establish a state-wide requirement that a certain percentage of total power demand must be met by Renewables. The first California law was passed in 2002. Already they are generating more than 20% with a state-wide requirement for 44% by the year 2024. Recently, California passed a law requiring solar panels on ALL new houses.

In the markets to be served by Transource, the states have passed similar laws requiring that a percentage of total consumption must be met by Renewables. New Jersey requires Renewables to be 50% of total consumption by the year 2030; The District of Columbia – 50% by

2032; Maryland – 25% by 2022 and 50% by 2030; and, Virginia – 15% by 2025.

The challenge facing electric power companies in those states is substantial, but they are pressing forward dramatically. They are investing billions in Renewables technology as well as procuring Wind and Solar power from home-owners and businesses.

Power from Renewables will be consumed in the local market where it is generated. There will be NO need for long distance power transmission. In fact, existing power plants will be operating considerably below capacity for many years to come. Also, existing power lines running between Pennsylvania and the Baltimore-Washington market which are currently operating substantially below capacity will continue to be under-utilized.

As a side benefit, the nation is developing a series of “micro-grids” which greatly reduces the risk of sabotage by a foreign entity.

So, the question is raised “Does it make any sense to invest \$350 million (or substantially more if there is a cost overrun which happens

more often than not) for a high voltage power line for which there is no use, no need, or no market.

Should we impose risk, expense, and ugliness on property owners, farms, schools, shopping centers and the like if there is no purpose?

Finally, Transource will not stop this process on their own. If the line is aborted, they are guaranteed that FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) will reimburse them 100% of their costs and throw in a 10% profit. That sounds like a good deal for them but not so good for taxpayers and consumers.

So, we citizens of Pennsylvania are hoping that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or the Governor or FERC will see fit to abandon this project NOW without wasting any more time, energy, or money.