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## **Maryland PSC Grants Intervention to 127 Parties in Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project Case**

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(BALTIMORE, MD) - The Maryland Public Service Commission has reviewed 176 petitions to intervene in the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) and has granted party status to 127 petitioners, including owners of property on or adjacent to the developer's proposed project route, local governments, and public interest groups.

Another 48 landowners who filed petitions to intervene and whose properties are not on or adjacent to the project's route have been designated as "interested persons" for purposes of these proceedings, rather than party-intervenors. Interested persons are not subject to discovery by the party-intervenors, nor are they required to file testimony, exhibits and briefs in the case. They may, however, express any concerns they have regarding the project through the public comment process including upcoming public hearings.

The Commission's order grants 116 petitions for intervention filed by landowners whose property is on or adjacent to the project's route, the petitions to intervene filed by Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, state Delegate Nino Mangione (Baltimore County) and the Potomac Edison Company, as well as the petitions of public interest groups STOP MPRP, the Land Preservation Trust, the Maryland Farm Bureau, the Sierra Club, the Gunpowder Riverkeeper and the Potomac Riverkeeper Network. Valleys Planning Council had originally also filed to intervene, but later withdrew its petition and accepted status as an interested person.

**The "interested persons" will be re-designated as party-intervenors, if they request a change in status within 20 days after the prehearing conference (still to be scheduled) and include in the request an explanation of how they intend to participate in the proceedings** and take on the duties and obligations of a party-intervenor, such as:

- (1) whether they intend to conduct and be subject to discovery from other parties;

- (2) whether they intend to present witnesses or other evidence;
- (3) whether they intend to conduct cross-examination or submit rebuttal evidence;
- (4) whether they intend to take and/or submit to depositions by other parties; and
- (5) whether they intend to otherwise argue their case by way of oral arguments at the close of the hearing or in written briefs.

The Commission noted that this designation of non-adjacent landowners as “interested persons” is without prejudice, and has no bearing on an individual’s ability to participate in the public hearings, which will be held in each directly affected county as this case proceeds.

On December 31, 2024, PSEG Renewable Transmission LLC (PSEG) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for authority to construct the Maryland Piedmont Reliability project. As proposed, the MPRP is an approximately 67-mile, 500 kV overhead transmission line that traverses portions of Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick counties.

The Commission is finalizing a date and time for a pre-hearing conference and will issue a notice with those details in the near future. The pre-hearing conference is the opportunity for parties to discuss the procedural schedule and any other relevant issues.

**The Commission’s order cautions all intervenors not to email or contact the Commissioners outside of the formal process, as doing so may constitute ex parte communication, and jeopardize the party’s intervenor status.**

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***About the Public Service Commission:***

*The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities and suppliers, telephone companies (land lines), private water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire, taxicab companies in some jurisdictions and bay pilot rates. The Commission implements the energy policy of the State and also regulates the siting of energy generating facilities and high-voltage transmission lines.*