

**BEFORE THE
NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY PURSUANT TO
N.J.S.A. 40:55D-19 FOR A DETERMINATION THAT THE
OCEANVIEW 230 KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT IS
REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR THE SERVICE, CONVENIENCE
OR WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC**

Direct Testimony

of

John T. Toth

Re: Project Overview

1 **I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

2 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A. My name is John T. Toth. My business address is 76 South Main Street, Akron,
4 Ohio 44308.

5 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

6 A. I am employed by FirstEnergy Service Company as a Supervisor in the
7 Transmission Engineering Department. My responsibilities include providing
8 guidance, leadership and supervision to a staff of four professionals in the
9 Transmission Engineering Group that are responsible for the siting and regulatory
10 approvals for modified and new transmission facilities in Ohio, Pennsylvania,
11 Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia and West Virginia. In this position, I provide
12 support for the FirstEnergy operating utilities' efforts to site new transmission
13 facilities, by supervising the group's efforts in developing transmission line route
14 siting studies, transmission substation siting studies and associated regulatory
15 filings.

16 **Q. Please describe your professional experience and educational background.**

17 A. In June 2005, I began working for FirstEnergy as an Assistant Engineer in its
18 rotational engineering program. As part of the rotational engineering program, I
19 worked in the following departments: (i) transmission planning; (ii) transmission
20 protection; (iii) substation engineering; and (iv) transmission engineering. I also
21 worked for Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company's distribution engineering
22 department and the substation maintenance department.

1 In July 2007, I started working in FirstEnergy’s Transmission Engineering
2 Department. While working in FirstEnergy’s Transmission Engineering
3 Department I received the following promotions: (i) Associate Engineer (April
4 2007); (ii) Engineer (May 2008); and (iii) Advanced Engineer (July 2010). In
5 May 2011, I was promoted to my current position Supervisor of Transmission
6 Siting within the Transmission Engineering Department.

7 I have a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree from Cleveland State
8 University’s Fenn College of Engineering (December, 2004).

9 My education, experience and qualifications are fully set forth in
10 Appendix A to my testimony.

11 **Q. Have you previously testified in Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”)**
12 **proceedings?**

13 A. No.

14 **Q. Have you testified in proceedings before other utility regulatory**
15 **commissions?**

16 A. Yes. I have provided testimony before the Pennsylvania Public Utility
17 Commission. In Pennsylvania, I provided testimony on the Bedford North –
18 Osterburg East 115 kV Transmission Line Project, Docket Number A-2011-
19 2247862. I have also provided testimony before the Ohio Power Siting Board
20 regarding the Chamberlin – Shalersville Transmission Line Project, Docket No.
21 08-0123-EL-BTX.

22 **Q. Would you describe the purpose of your testimony?**

1 A. I am testifying on behalf of Petitioner Jersey Central Power & Light Company
2 (“JCP&L” or the “Company”) in support of its Petition seeking a determination
3 that the Oceanview 230 kV transmission line project (the “Project”) is reasonably
4 necessary for the service, convenience or welfare of the public. I provide an
5 overview of the Project. I also introduce the other witnesses who are filing
6 testimony in support of the Company’s Petition.

7 **II. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

8 **Q. Please briefly describe the Project.**

9 A. The Oceanview substation, located in Neptune, New Jersey, is currently supplied
10 by two 230 kV circuits (T-2020/S-1033) from the Atlantic substation, which is
11 located approximately four miles northwest of the Oceanview substation in Colts
12 Neck, New Jersey. Both circuits are located on a single set of double-circuit
13 wooden H-frame structures between the Atlantic and Oceanview substations.

14 During its Regional Transmission Expansion Planning Process (“RTEP”),
15 PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (“PJM”) identified the need for a third 230 kV
16 circuit into the Oceanview substation. The third 230 kV circuit is needed to
17 mitigate the potential for: (i) a simultaneous outage of the existing, double-circuit
18 230 kV transmission line supply to the Oceanview substation; and (ii) outages to
19 the lower voltage circuits and substations supplied through the Oceanview
20 substation.

21 As discussed in detail in the testimony of Timothy B. Gaul, the proposed
22 route for the Project begins in a northerly direction from JCP&L’s Larrabee
23 substation, which is located in Howell, New Jersey, within the existing Larrabee-

1 Atlantic 230 kV and Smithburg-Atlantic 230 kV transmission Right-of-Way
2 (“ROW”) for approximately 11.6 miles. The route traverses approximately 2.5
3 miles through Allaire State Park (which is part of the 11.6 miles within the same
4 ROW), before reaching a point just east of the Atlantic substation. From the
5 Atlantic substation, the proposed route heads southeast within the existing
6 Oceanview-Atlantic 230 kV transmission corridor for approximately 4.5 miles
7 into the Oceanview Substation. The Project will pass through sections of the
8 municipalities of Colts Neck, Howell, Neptune, Tinton Falls, and Wall in
9 Monmouth County.

10 The entire 16.1-mile-long route would be constructed within existing
11 transmission ROW. Some limited tree clearing may be conducted within the
12 existing ROW and JCP&L may seek additional priority tree rights where
13 necessary, but no significant tree clearing is anticipated, as the ROW is currently
14 maintained in accordance with JCP&L’s vegetation management program.
15 Between the Larrabee and Atlantic substations, the route will be constructed
16 adjacent to existing transmission lines, on new steel monopoles within the
17 existing ROW. The new steel monopoles in this section are expected to be
18 between 80 feet and 160 feet in height. Between the Atlantic and Oceanview
19 substations, the route will be constructed by rebuilding an existing transmission
20 line (currently on H-frame structures) on steel monopoles and constructing the
21 Oceanview 230 kV Transmission Line on an adjacent set of steel monopole
22 structures. The new steel monopoles for this section are expected to be between
23 80 feet and 115 feet in height.

1 Associated substation work that is to take place within the existing
2 Larrabee substation includes constructing a new 230 kV transmission line
3 terminal and adding 3 breakers. The addition of 3 breakers allows for
4 reconfiguring the existing 8 breaker ring bus into an 11 breaker, breaker-and-a-
5 half protection scheme.

6 Associated substation work that is will take place at the existing
7 Oceanview substation includes an additional five 230 kV breakers in a ring bus
8 arrangement. This will allow for the new 230 kV transmission line terminal and
9 the relocation of the connection of two existing 230/34.5 kV transformer banks to
10 the new ring bus.

11 **Q. What is the estimated cost of the Project?**

12 A. The total project cost is approximately \$64 million, which includes construction
13 work at two (2) existing substations - Oceanview and Larrabee substations.¹

14 **Q. What is the required in service date of the Project?**

15 A. The required in-service date established by PJM is June 1, 2017.

16 **Q. Please describe the time frame for this Project?**

17 A. JCP&L expects to begin submitting applications for permits in the second quarter
18 of 2014 and continue until approximately the third quarter of 2015. Many of the
19 permits for the Project require that final detailed engineering be complete.
20 Detailed engineering started in February, 2014 and will be completed in August,
21 2015. JCP&L anticipates that construction will begin in 2016 and is estimated to
22 take 12 to 16 months.

¹ The \$64 million project cost does not include overhead costs.

1 **Q. Please identify the other witnesses who will be providing direct testimony on**
2 **behalf of JCP&L in this proceeding.**

3 A. There will be eight other witnesses providing testimony on JCP&L's behalf in this
4 proceeding:

- 5 • David Kozy, Jr., General Manager Transmission Design, FirstEnergy
6 Service Company. Mr. Kozy's testimony discusses the design,
7 engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of the Project;
- 8 • Jeffrey A. Goldberg, Engineer IV, FirstEnergy Service Company. Mr.
9 Goldberg's testimony addresses the electrical need for the Project and
10 describes the planning process that led to the Project;
- 11 • Timothy B. Gaul, Associate Vice President – Energy Services, The Louis
12 Berger Group, Inc. Mr. Gaul's testimony describes the siting
13 methodology, including the route evaluation and selection process. Mr.
14 Gaul's testimony includes the Siting Report for the Project;
- 15 • Kirsty M. Cronin, Principal Environmental Scientist, The Louis Berger
16 Group, Inc. Ms. Cronin's testimony explains the environmental
17 permitting process for the Project;
- 18 • Tracey J. Janis, Manager Right-Of-Way Services, FirstEnergy Service
19 Company. Ms. Janis's testimony addresses the real estate and right-of-
20 way aspects of the Project;
- 21 • Jerome J. McHale, President of J. McHale & Associates, Inc. Mr.
22 McHale's testimony discusses the real estate impacts and appraiser's
23 conclusions; and

- 1 • Kyle G. King, President of K&R Consulting, LLC. Mr. King's testimony
2 discusses the issues related to electric and magnetic fields in relation to the
3 Project;
- 4 • William H. Bailey, Ph.D., Principal Scientist at Exponent Inc. Dr.
5 Bailey's testimony discusses the environmental and occupational health
6 issues related to electric and magnetic fields.

7 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

8 A. Yes, it does.

Resume: Education and Experience of John T. Toth

Education:

2004 Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, Cleveland State University's Fenn
College of Engineering, Cleveland, Ohio
1983 Ohio Diesel Technical Institute, Cleveland, Ohio

Experience:

1981 – 1998 Master Mechanic – Various Employers
2005 – 2007 Assistant Engineer, Rotational Engineer Program – FirstEnergy Service
Company
2007 – 2008 Associate Engineer, Transmission Engineering Group – FirstEnergy
Service Company
2008 – 2010 Advanced Engineer, Transmission Engineering Group – FirstEnergy
Service Company
2011 – Present Transmission Siting Supervisor, Transmission Engineering Group –
FirstEnergy Service Company

Prepared and presented testimony in the following siting related cases:

Ohio Power Siting Board Case:

Docket No. 08-0123-EL-BTX, Chamberlin – Shalersville Transmission Line
Project

Pa P.U.C. Case:

Docket No. A-2011-2247862, Bedford North – Osterberg East 115 kV HV
Transmission Line Project