



JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

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February 27, 2025

PJM Board of Managers
Mark Takahashi, Chairman
Manu Asthana, PJM President and CEO
PJM Interconnection L.L.C.
2750 Monroe Boulevard
Audubon, Pennsylvania 19408

RE: New Transmission Lines Across Jefferson County, West Virginia

Dear Board of Managers,

At its February 20, 2025 meeting, the Jefferson County Commission unanimously approved sending this letter to oppose PJM's high transmission line expansion in Jefferson County. We did so because this project poses significant risks to our residents and economy by infringing on private property rights and diminishing economic opportunities, particularly in the local business and tourism sectors.

It is our understanding that the PJM transmission project will provide additional power to points east of Jefferson County, West Virginia, by way of an expanded transmission line from coal-fired power plants in the southern part of the State to Loudoun County, Virginia, the national hub for data centers. Jefferson County's role in this project is simply to cede private land and become a conduit for this power transmission while receiving negligible, if any, benefit.

What you should know is that Jefferson County is a premier tourism destination on the East Coast—leading the State and region in tourism economic activity. In 2023 alone, visitor spending exceeded \$122 million, generating a total economic impact of \$207 million. State and local taxes collected from tourism-related activities surpassed \$11 million. Visitors are drawn to Jefferson County's historic and natural landmarks, including Harpers Ferry and Charles Town, as well as its rolling hills and scenic vistas. Expanding transmission lines through these treasured landscapes would significantly harm one of our most vital economic assets, threatening businesses, attractions, and local livelihoods.

An additional concern is the use of eminent domain to seize private property. Eminent domain provides for property takings to serve a "public good." However, regarding PJM's transmission expansion, it is clear that Jefferson County residents are hindered, not helped, by the expansion.

The seizure of private property and the damage to our tourism sector would serve to provide additional power to areas east of Jefferson County but would not generate tax revenue for essential services, would not improve public utilities, and would not yield any

County Administrator
Edwina Benites-LM

tangible benefits for the residents who bear the cost in lost private property and decreased economic activity in the tourism sector.

For these reasons, we oppose the routing of these transmission lines through Jefferson County and urge PJM to explore alternative solutions that do not impose an undue burden on our residents. Or, at the very least, power should be delivered to Jefferson County for local economic growth, such as new, local data centers, or to support our tourism industry. We request that PJM visit Jefferson County to hold a public presentation and conduct a thorough review of the concerns outlined in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pasha Majdi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pasha Majdi, president
Jefferson County Commission