

WATI Newsletter – NOW IS THE TIME TO BE HEARD

West Virginians Against Transmission Infrastructure (WATI) is urging every concerned citizen to attend the upcoming Public Service Commission (PSC) Public Hearings on the proposed MARL Transmission Project.

These hearings may be the only opportunity most citizens will ever have to speak directly to the three Public Service Commissioners who will ultimately help decide the future of this project.

All three PSC Commissioners, PSC staff, and an official court recorder will be present at each hearing. Citizens will generally have between three and five minutes to speak directly to the Commission and place their concerns into the official record. Once you show you will be signed in. You will be asked to speak in the order you signed in. The commission has allocated two hours at each location to hear from you. If you don't want to speak, bring a prepared written comment to have entered in the record.

If you oppose the MARL Project, now is the time to show up.

A strong public turnout matters. Packed seats say this is a critical matter to WV. Fill the seats!! The Commission needs to see the faces behind the farms, homes, businesses, churches, forests, and communities that stand to be impacted. In some cases the most impactful statements have come from children.

Bring your family. Bring your neighbors. Bring your church members. Bring your friends.

Challenge 10 people to attend then in turn ask them to invite 10 more. Fill the seats!

Intervenors can attend these upcoming local public hearings but will be given an opportunity to speak directly to the PSC and a later hearing.

This project is not just about transmission lines. It is about the future of West Virginia communities and whether West Virginians should bear the burden of massive infrastructure intended largely to support Virginia data center expansion.

Potential Talking Points:

Property Rights and Family Heritage

- My property is more than lines on a map. It is my home, my family legacy, and part of my future.
- Many families along this route have owned their land for generations.

- Once a 500 kV transmission corridor cuts through a property, the damage is permanent.
- West Virginians should not lose property value, peace, or future land use opportunities to support development outside our state.
- This project places a disproportionate burden on rural communities.

Consumer Cost Concerns

- West Virginians are already struggling with rising utility bills, inflation, and higher living costs.
- Families on fixed incomes cannot continue absorbing major increases in electricity costs.
- Citizens deserve transparency regarding how much of this project's cost could be passed on to ratepayers.
- Many West Virginians believe they are being asked to help finance infrastructure primarily intended to support out-of-state growth and data center expansion.
- West Virginia consumers should not be forced to subsidize Northern Virginia's economic boom.
- If the project primarily benefits large corporate energy users outside the state, then those beneficiaries should bear the cost.

Lack of Transparency

- Many residents still cannot clearly determine whether their property is impacted.
- NextEra previously provided a more detailed route mapping tool, but after filing the application, that level of detail was reduced.
- People deserve accurate and accessible information before a project of this magnitude moves forward.
- Transparency should not decrease after an application is filed.

"Why Should WV Pay for Virginia's Growth?"

- West Virginians are being asked to bear the physical and financial impacts of this project while Northern Virginia data centers receive the benefit.
- Our communities should not sacrifice land, viewsheds, farms, and forests to subsidize another state's economic expansion.
- If this project is primarily driven by speculative data center growth, West Virginians deserve honest answers about who truly benefits.
- The PSC should carefully examine whether the benefits to West Virginia outweigh the long-term costs to our communities.

Reliability Questions

- We are repeatedly told this project is about "reliability," but many citizens still have unanswered questions about the actual need. NextEra is not our electric utility – this project does not bring power to our homes.
- West Virginia already produces large amounts of electricity.
- Improving local distribution infrastructure inside West Virginia would provide more direct benefit to West Virginia consumers.
- Reliability for whom? West Virginians or out-of-state energy demand?

Environmental & Community Concerns

- This project would permanently alter forests, farmland, streams, wildlife habitat, and scenic areas.
- Once these corridors are cleared, the impacts cannot simply be reversed.
- Rural communities should not become industrial utility corridors.
- The emotional toll on families and landowners is real and should not be dismissed.

PSC PUBLIC HEARINGS

Keyser

Thursday, June 4, 2026 – 5:30 PM
 Potomac State College
 Church-McKee Arts Center
 101 College Drive
 Keyser, WV 26726

Romney

Friday, June 5, 2026 – 5:30 PM
 Hampshire County Courthouse
 Courtroom, 2nd Floor
 100 N. High Street
 Romney, WV 26757

Morgantown

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – 5:30 PM
 Monongalia County Center
 40 West Main Street
 Morgantown, WV 26501

Kingwood

Thursday, June 11, 2026 – 5:30 PM
 Kingwood Civic Center
 127 East Main Street
 Kingwood, WV 26537

IMPORTANT INTERVENOR DEADLINE — JUNE 1

The deadline to formally intervene in the MARL case before the PSC is June 1, 2026.

WATI has conducted nearly a dozen intervenor workshops over the last month across impacted communities, helping citizens understand the process and protect their rights.

There are now more than 100 individual intervenors and growing.

If you still need help filing, WATI has posted a tutorial video on our website:

www.wvatli.org

Also, if you post on the facebook page that you need help, someone will reach out to you.

Do not assume someone else will fight this battle for you. Every intervenor matters.

KEEP THE PRESSURE ON

Please continue contacting your local elected officials, state legislators, and federal representatives. We are thankful to the county commissions from Monongalia, Preston, Mineral and Hampshire Counties for not only officially protesting the MARL Project but also becoming intervenors.

And most importantly, contact Governor Morrissey.

Governor Morrissey's Office:
1-304-558-2000

1900 Kanawha Blvd., E
Charleston, WV 25305

Call his office. Write letters. Send emails. Let him know how you feel about the MARL Project and the impact it could have on West Virginia families and communities.

The public response has already been tremendous, with more than 4,300 letters of opposition submitted and counting.

Keep writing.
Keep speaking.
Keep showing up.

WATI IS NOW A 501(c)(4) NON-PROFIT

WATI is proud to announce that the IRS has officially granted us non-profit status as a 501(c)(4) organization.

This milestone strengthens our ability to organize, advocate, educate, and continue fighting for West Virginia communities impacted by the MARL Project.

This has truly become a grassroots movement powered by ordinary citizens standing together for their homes, farms, families, and future.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE FIGHT

As this case moves deeper into the PSC process, expert testimony will become critical. WATI is actively working to secure the professional experts needed to challenge this project before the Commission.

That effort requires funding.

If you are able, please consider donating to support the fight.

You can contribute:

- At any Truist Bank
- Or by mailing a check to:

WATI
PO Box 795
Fort Ashby, WV 26719

There are several other ways to contribute and support WATI's efforts. For additional donation options, updates, and resources, please visit our website:

www.wvatli.org

Every contribution helps.

Most importantly, thank you for your support, encouragement, volunteerism, donations, letters, phone calls, and commitment to protecting West Virginia communities. The outpouring of support across the state has been deeply appreciated and incredibly motivating.

Together, we can be heard.