

## **PARTICIPATING IN THE WV PSC PROCESS**

There are a number of ways for citizens to participate in the West Virginia Public Service Commission review of the Gore-Doubs-Goose Creek and Valley Link projects. Certain kinds of participation count more than others. Participation options, on a scale from least to most impactful, include signing a petition, sending a pre-written form letter, sending an original letter, making an in-person comment during a PSC public hearing, and finally intervening and becoming a party to the PSC proceeding.

Intervening is a request to the PSC that, if granted, makes you a legal party to the case and allows you to exercise certain rights during the proceeding. Intervenors may question the utility's filings through the discovery process. Intervenors may file testimony, or hire expert witnesses to file testimony on their behalf. Intervenors may cross-examine utility witnesses. Intervenors may file briefs recommending the PSC decide a certain way. And finally and perhaps most important, Intervenors can appeal any decision of the PSC in the West Virginia court system. If you do not intervene, you give up these rights.

Every citizen of Jefferson County will be affected by Gore-Doubs-Goose Creek and/or Valley Link and therefore has a right to petition to intervene in the PSC proceeding to protect their legal interests. Intervening is easy, free, and you don't need an attorney. Becoming an intervenor costs nothing and you will not be required to file further actions or testify in the case if you do not choose. You will not be required to file testimony, briefs, or motions, nor attend hearings if you do not choose to do so. Intervening does not create any legal obligation on your part. It simply preserves your right to legal action if you so choose. You are also free to drop out of the case at any time. However, if you do not file before the deadline to intervene set by the PSC, you cannot decide at a later date that you wish to exercise your legal rights, and may not be accepted as a party to the case.

We urge everyone who owns property that will be crossed by the proposed line to intervene before the deadline. We also encourage adjacent property owners who will experience visual and other impacts to intervene. We also encourage electric ratepayers, taxpayers, property owners and staff and parents of children attending South Jefferson Elementary School less than 1,000 feet from these high-voltage transmission line additions to file as intervenors!

The procedure for intervening is set forth in the PSC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, §150-1-12.6. Any person having a legal interest in the subject matter of a proceeding pending before the Commission may petition for leave to intervene in the proceeding before any deadline to intervene set by the Commission. Once a person files their petition, they are considered a party until the Commission grants or denies their petition.

A petition can be a letter or motion that contains the following information:

1. The case number and name of the case.
2. The name of the intervenor.
3. The mailing and email addresses of the intervenor.

4. The name of the intervenor's attorney, if any. If you have not hired an attorney, the intervenor should state that they are acting "pro se" (which means on their own behalf without an attorney).
5. A clear and concise state statement of the intervenor's interest in the proceeding and the grounds for intervention. (Example: I am a property owner whose property will be impacted by the transmission line project.)
6. A statement of your position on the case (Example: I am opposed to the project because it will cause impacts to my property.)
7. A statement of the relief desired. (Example: The Commission should deny the application for this transmission project.)

You must mail your original petition to intervene, plus 12 copies, to arrive before the deadline. You may want to consider sending it certified with return receipt to make sure they received it on time.

**Executive Secretary  
West Virginia Public Service Commission  
201 Brooks Street  
Charleston, WV 25301**

Once you have mailed your petition, you must also serve it on any other parties to the PSC proceeding. The parties are listed on the PSC's docket for the case under the "Service List" link. Any party with an email address may be served by email. Any party without an email address must be served by mail.

As a formal party, you will automatically be placed on the Service List to receive all documents. Your responsibilities as an intervenor include serving copies of all documents that you file on all other parties, following the procedural deadlines set forth by the Commission, and to follow the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Notify Jefferson County VOLT of your status once you have intervened. We will bring together all citizen intervenors to share resources and information about the case and will coordinate with larger government and organizational intervenors in the case.

If you have questions regarding the procedure, contact the PSC at 800-344-5113.