



**Frequently Asked Questions  
Included in Communication to Girard Township Supervisors  
April 24, 2015**

- 1. Why is ITC not using the Penelec owned real estate that runs the entire length of this project to install the line? This seemed logical to everyone since it is vacant land owned by Penelec and would cause less disturbance to roads and private properties.**

During our review of a number of route options, we attempted to minimize adverse impacts to residents, their land and the natural environment while still providing a technically viable and cost-effective transmission line. Based on our review, ITC determined that our proposed route is the most feasible.

- 2. How loud will the noise level be? Since a decibel level cannot be given, what is a comparable noise for people to relate it to; aircraft, thruway noise, train.**

The enclosed design of the HVDC converter modules would reduce noticeable sound. In order to provide the most complete information to you and the community, ITC is commissioning a noise study. We will share the study results with you.

- 3. Are there any noise buffers planned between the substation and the residential homes; substantial size trees, walls or other noise abating mechanisms?**

As a result of the noise study that we are commissioning, we will review the need for such measures.

- 4. How much illumination will there be? Can the type of lighting being used be “down directional” so as to not disturb the neighboring residents?**

We expect to have more details about the converter station and lighting during the project design stage. We will stay in touch with you during the project design process.

- 5. Will this increase the terrorist threat level of this area?**

We have no reason to believe that this project will present any such concern to the community.

- 6. Why are surveyors in unmarked cars and putting steel stakes in the middle of the road? Residents with children are concerned with strange people milling about neighborhood.**

We understand that concern. The local survey crews for this project are working with Deiss & Halmi Engineering. It's not unusual for these crews to travel to the site in private vehicles. They are surveying the entire route right-of-way boundary and are gathering topographic data for certain stream crossings. Our crews only access the public right-of-way and properties for which ITC has obtained a right of entry. Steel stakes are being placed in some of the roads for use as project control points. It's often more practical to put these control points within the road rather than alongside a road in a yard area where they can be inadvertently disturbed by private property owners or roadside maintenance activities.

- 7. Where will water come from to cool the units? The residential water wells in the area are all shallow dug wells.**

None of the technical systems (including cooling water) at the converter station will use water drawn from local wells. The local well will only be used as potable water for on-site workers.

**8. Has the North East area been considered instead? Nanticoke Canada across the lake to North East, PA then down the I-90 median to the substation?**

We considered a number of locations in the early development of the project. The Erie West substation location in Girard Township was selected due to its electrical characteristics and lower environmental disturbance. Once that location was selected, many approach routes from the lakeshore to the station – including from the northeast – were evaluated over several months of studies. We determined that the current route is the most feasible route based on our review. .

**9. Why can't a different lot be used for construction of building? Still close to existing site but further away from residential homes.**

Several locations were considered for the converter station. The selected location is close to the Erie West Substation, has access to nearby roadways, and minimizes disruption to the environment.

**10. Where will the manholes be located? How far apart will they be? What size will these be? Will they be in underground and if so how far?**

The vaults will be buried along the cable route and will have two manhole entrances. Exact spacing and location will be determined during the detailed project design phase.

**11. How are the outgoing cables from converter going into the substation?**

We are in discussions with Penelec about how our converter station will be tied to its substation.

**12. Why haven't questions been answered from the public outreach meeting at the Girard High School?**

We can certainly understand the community's desire for more information. The information we shared at the March 12 open house and in subsequent follow-up to attendees was based on what was available to us at the time. We look forward to providing more information as the project moves forward.

**13. Will local residents benefit from this electricity? If so, how? Will rates go down? Will more electricity be provided for our area or will it all be sold to other parts of the United States?**

Yes, we believe the local community will benefit from this project. The Lake Erie Connector creates a new connection for the bulk electric power grid in the Pennsylvania area with access to power markets in Canada. Local residents and businesses will benefit from the access this new connection and associated facilities provide thru improved reliability and emergency grid restoration capabilities. The electric power transmitted on the line will be bought and sold in wholesale regional power markets which is related, but not directly proportional to, the electric rates of local residents and businesses. ITC does not sell retail power and therefore cannot set electric rates. However, ITC is providing the local and regional retailers of electric power with access to previously inaccessible electric power sources that could reduce the cost electric power.

**14. When is construction going to start? Will the building be first or will the cable go down first?**

Our current schedule calls for construction to begin in the 2016-17 timeframe. The converter station would be constructed first.