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## Request for Feasibility Study on Alternative Route for Silverside to Naamans Reliability Project

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Vavala, Phillip J:(PHI) <phil.vavala@pepcoholdings.com>  
To: "chair@ardencroft.delaware.gov" <chair@ardencroft.delaware.gov>

Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 3:37 PM

Dear Mr. Gruswitz,

Thank you for reaching out to me on behalf of your neighbors and the Village of Ardencroft with this well-developed request, detailed background information, and proposed plan.

As a lifelong resident and neighbor of yours in North Wilmington, I reviewed your request thoroughly with my team based on the technical feasibility while also keeping the residents of the broader community in mind.

Transmission infrastructure is the backbone of reliable service in our region, and we take these projects seriously from both an engineering and community standpoint. We care and need these projects to strengthen the grid for the communities we serve, including Ardencroft.

We currently have a project underway to replace and strengthen our aging infrastructure – particularly the larger footprint lattice transmission towers currently in place, with strong single steel poles that can withstand the stronger storms and extreme weather that is quickly becoming the norm. Our goal is to minimize impact to the surrounding communities, while providing stronger more resilient infrastructure that will serve this region's customers for decades to come. The surrounding area has grown around our existing infrastructure over the years, and we recognize rerouting equipment may seem to be a quick fix, especially along railways. Due to their complex nature, large transmission projects take a long time to plan and execute. During our extensive planning process, we consider route analysis studies whenever feasible to potentially take advantage of shorter or less disruptive routes, and routes with fewer reliability threats. Our engineering teams determined during the planning phase of this project that alternative routes were not viable or feasible due to congestion in the region. Moving the current transmission infrastructure's route would ultimately be obstructed by neighboring residential homes and commercial businesses.

I understand this message is not what you would like to hear, and as an electrical engineer – I committed additional scrutiny to our plan to ensure our due diligence was performed. I can commit to ensuring our teams communicate consistently, clearly, and regularly with you and the homeowners in the Villages of Ardencroft community as this project proceeds. I can also commit to ensuring my team members remain available to answer any questions or concerns you and your neighbors have as the project proceeds.

Thank you again for your outreach and please reach out anytime if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

**Phillip J. Vavala**

Region President, Delmarva Power

Phillip.Vavala@exeloncorp.com