

IMPORTANT Advice For Landowners Who May Be Impacted By The MARL Or Valley Link Transmission Lines

Both the MARL and Valley Link Transmission lines must obtain a permit from the West Virginia Public Service Commission (PSC) before they can enter your property without your permission for any surveys, explorations or any other work that could impact your land. The right of entry forms that they are currently urging you to sign are voluntary – **you do not need to sign them**. Neither transmission line has yet filed for a permit and the PSC believes that it could take at least two years before they might obtain that permit. If your property is in the proposed path for one of these transmission lines, you will almost certainly be contacted and pressured to sign documents by land agents for the companies wishing to construct them. **DON'T!!**

For your sake, it is vitally important that you follow the advice below:

1. **Do not sign anything** these companies and their agents want you to sign before they first get a permit from the West Virginia PSC - - early to mid-2027 or later. Meanwhile, do everything you can to fight these transmission lines. We can win!
2. **Get everything in writing.** Do not speak to or haggle with their agents in person – their words and verbal promises are meaningless. If they wish to communicate with you, insist that they either send you a letter and/or an email. Maybe send a polite “no thank you” response, but save those communications!
3. If they do obtain a permit to construct the transmission line, that will come with their ability to enter your property and even condemn your land via eminent domain. **Hire an attorney** who is familiar with rights-of-way and eminent domain issues. The documents that they will want you to sign will be very complex and full of legal “traps”. All of the language will be in their favor. Remember: any agreement you may ultimately sign will encumber your land FOREVER – exercise extreme caution!
4. The company will owe you compensation for any land they “take” from you. **DO NOT TAKE THEIR FIRST COMPENSATION OFFER** – it will be a seriously “lowball” figure. In fact, you are probably best advised to force them to take you to court. Why? Because in West Virginia, condemnation proceedings are tried before a jury of 12 of your peer landowners. That jury of your peers will almost certainly be more sympathetic to you than the huge company taking your land. Considerable experience has shown that the odds are very high that you will be awarded a sum much greater than the company’s first offers. These companies will pressure you and try to convince you that if you hold out, you’ll get less compensation than if you settle early. **DON’T BELIEVE IT!** Again, get everything in writing and hire an attorney!

5. Taking tens or hundreds of individual landowners to court will be extremely expensive and time consuming for these companies. They will do most anything to avoid this – including seriously increasing their offers of compensation.
6. **Starting now, do everything you can to stop the West Virginia PSC from issuing permits for MARL and Valley Link.** Write the PSC, contact the Governor, contact your legislators and county commissioners, consider becoming an intervenor in the PSC consideration of these permits. Please go to xyz.org to find out more, stay up on the latest news and join our cause! (QR code here)