PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON

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IN RE: NEXTERA ENERGY TRANSMISSION*

MIDATLANTIC, INC. * 26-0075-E-CN

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HEARING TRANSCRIPT

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BEFORE: CHARLOTTE LANE, Chairman

RENEE LARRICK, Commissioner

WILLIAM RANEY, Commissioner

HEARING: Friday, October 30, 2026

9:31 a.m.

LOCATION: PSC Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room

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Charleston WV

Reporter: Emily Stewart

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ALSO PRESENT: RYAN BROWN, LAW CLERK
              JESSICA HARPER, LAW CLERK

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIR:

All may sit down. I guess we're a little bit early. Are there any people on remote?

MR. BROWN:

I believe that we have Mr. Clower who was trying to call in yesterday. He's intending to testify again today.

CHAIR:

Okay. It's a little early, but it looks to me as if everyone is here that's supposed to be here. So why don't we try to get Mr. Clower on.

MR. BROWN:

I believe it looks like he is unmuted now.

MR. CLOWER:

Good morning. Can you hear me?

CHAIR:

Mr. Clower.

MR. CLOWER:

Can you hear me? Yes, good morning. Can you hear me?

CHAIR:

Not very well.

MR. CLOWER:

Oh, boy.

CHAIR:

Can you get closer to your microphone?

MR. CLOWER:

I'll try, Madam.

CHAIR:

There, that's better.

COMMISSIONER RANEY:

Mr. Clower, I can --- Mr. Clower, I can hear you very well. I'm also remote and so I don't know exactly where the breakdown is.

MR. CLOWER:

Well, can you hear me better now or not?

CHAIR:

Yes. No, that's much better.

MR. CLOWER:

Okay, good. I might have moved two feet, so forgive me. And I apologize for yesterday, but I think my --- my AI lady was on break or something to help me. But anyway, my name is Michael Clower. Clower is spelled C-L-O-W-E-R.

CHAIR:

Right. And we need to swear you in.

MR. CLOWER:

Okay, go right ahead.

COURT REPORTER:

Can you please raise your right hand?

MICHAEL CLOWER, HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

CHAIR:

Okay. Proceed, Mr. Clower.

A. Okay. I --- I am a landowner affected by the high voltage transmission lines in Preston County. I'm --- was raised in Hampshire County in Romney, West Virginia and I moved up here about 25, going on 26 years ago. I served in the U.S. Army for six years in Europe during the Cold War. I worked 46 years in the heavy equipment industry for 36 years and I was a heavy equipment owner. And anyway, I'll try to make this short and sweet because I know you guys want to get home today.

I had my house for sale all for about nine months during this period, which started a year and a half ago when we received that little card in the mail and we did not get any takers. We had a lot of people interested, but soon as we told them about the highway transmission lines, they backed out. The other thing is I make hay on my property. I sell it. I got animals. And that's going to be interrupted by this because they

want to put two towers on the property and it's right in the hay fields. Let's see. We have a pond and the way that they're saying that those lines will go directly over my pond, which I have neighbor kids that come down fishing and we have, you know, we do recreational things there.

But the one thing that concerns me and I've really never heard anybody talk about is how you put a value on your mineral rights. And I'll try to keep it short here. My question would be, too, and I've never heard an answer, is and seems like NextEra doesn't really give me a straight answer. Why can't they go underground? And I know it'd be more costly, but you know, the gas lines, they do that every day. I'm 3,200 feet off the main road. My lines are underground. And if you Google high voltage lines in Europe, they go up to 500kV underground. And the other thing is, through all this --- all this, --- this has been a lot of physical and mental stress on me. Can't sleep well. I know that's not your problem, but I just want you all to know this. I'm just one person and I'm sure there's others out there that --- that is --- that is affected also.

And --- and the last thing is how do you put a value on my life? You know, I retired here. We have ---. TECHNOLOGICAL ERROR OCCURRED

A. --- for doing a wonderful job this week. I've been listening in. I was here Monday. And I want to thank the WATI group also and the lawyers, even though I thought they were speaking in tongues a couple --- a couple areas. But anyway, I want to thank the Commissioner and the great job you guys have done in protecting us.

CHAIR:

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Clower. Mr. Clower, have you talked to the NextEra people about trying to reroute the line ---

A. Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR:

--- someplace better --- better on your property?

A. Yes, I have. And it seems like they don't want to stay out of my hay field. And there would be two towers in my hay field. And I don't --- I've only got 27.31 acres. So it's not like I have a lot of acreage. And so it's very disturbing and be honest with you, don't know what to do about it and it's been very hard on our family.

CHAIR:

Okay, thank you. Are there any questions of this witness?

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY ATTORNEY WILLIAMS:

Q. I think I just have one quick question. Do you have any transmission lines that are near your property now or is this.

A. Yes, I --- yes, I do. I have one tower on my property right now. And the configuration that they want to do is to be so many feet away from this tower and then they want to go at an angle, which I understand that requires a special type tower. I understand. And then shoot up into my upper six acres, which would be another tower. And the way it is right now, I wouldn't be able to use my property whatsoever.

Now, they say, you know, 500kV --- and I've been studying a little bit online. Google knows everything but, you know, they say there's no health risk there. But, you know, if you really get into that, you know, it's affected cattle. It's affected --- you know, it's true. That's the bottom line. I went through all of this with NextEra and they wasn't clear. Nobody had a --- a clear mind. And it seemed like we got so many hearsays and, you know, everybody had an opinion and, you know, it's just --- it's --- it's wrong. It's wrong. You know, I served in the military. I knew who the enemy was. I come back home and the enemy is my fellow

citizens. I'm sorry rambling on.
Q. That's fine. And also, when you were making your statement earlier, you faded out for a while ---
A. Yes.
Q. --- when you said that you recently retired and then you faded out and came back in at a different point. Was there some points you were making during that that we might have missed?
A. I don't think so. I don't think so. I really don't. I could ramble on and on, but I'm not going to do that. But thank you, good Lord above for WATI and what they're doing for us, standing up and you guys standing up. And I don't know how you do what you do, but I appreciate every one of you.

ATTORNEY WILLIAMS:

Okay. Well, thank you very much.

CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clower. Are there others who wish to ask him questions?

COMMISSIONER RANEY:

Madam Chairman, can you hear me?

CHAIR:

Yes, yes. Go ahead, Commissioner. Randy.

COMMISSIONER RANEY:

Well, Mr. Clower, usually I ask everybody

to tell us a little about --- about yourselves and you've already done that. But I thought your question regarding mineral rights was very, very curious and hope that is reserved. It's reserved certainly in your statement, but reserved in your testimony as well.

A. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RANEY:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR:

Okay, thank you. Are there any other questions of this witness? Well, thank you, Mr. Clower.

A. Yes, ma'am. You try to have a good weekend, guys. Thanks again.

CHAIR:

Okay, thank you. Now, are there other --- are there other witnesses online?

MS. HARPER:

Not that have --- the other witnesses online have already --- they've already testified.

CHAIR:

Okay. And so the witnesses that were scheduled for Monday have all now testified?

MR. BROWN:

I believe so. I'm pulling that list up right now, but I believe they've all testified for

Monday.

CHAIR:

Okay. With that, we are now recessed or adjourned. Thank you all for coming this morning.

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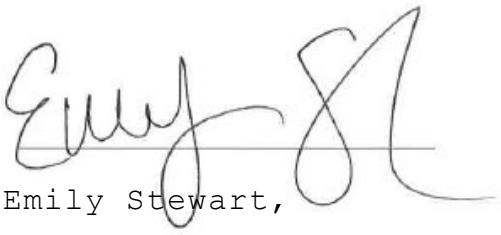
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

I certify that the attached transcript meets the requirements set forth within article twenty-seven, chapter forty-seven of the West Virginia Code.



Emily Stewart,

Court Reporter