

PJM/ NEXTERA ENERGY'S MARL PROPOSED HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE THROUGH WV

Terms, Information, Talking Points, Sample Letter, Contacts and Resources 8/5/2025

TERMS

PJM Interconnection is a transmission organization that manages the electricity grid for a large portion of the eastern US. PJM chose NextEra Energy company for the MARL project.

NextEra Energy Transmission Company is a Fortune 200 Company based in Florida, is one of the largest energy infrastructure companies in North America.

Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link (MARL) is the name given to the 105-mile Extra-High Voltage Transmission Line with a power generating substation in Greene County, Pennsylvania, ending at a substation/the consumer in Frederick County, Virginia. The lines run through several counties in West Virginia including Monongalia, Preston, Mineral, Hampshire and Jefferson.

Public Service Commission of WV (PSC) is the state Utility Regulatory Agency. NextEra's application will be filed with the PSC.

INFORMATION

The Mid Atlantic Transmission Line (MARL) would cut through our West Virginia communities with massive transmission towers and 500-kilovolt electric lines, going from a substation in Greene County, Pennsylvania to data centers in Northern Virginia, over 100 miles away.

Although this project would have significant negative effects throughout our region, many people, including local businesses and property owners, are only now learning about the proposal.

It is urgent for the public to learn more and advocate against MARL, and time is short. NextEra Energy, the company behind the project, must file an application with the WV Public Service Commission to bring the lines through the state, and they intend to file an application with the PSC in the fall.

Fortunately, many of our elected officials, including the Preston and Monongalia County Commissioners and many individual House of Delegates members have come out against MARL. We must add our voices and lobby our lawmakers, Governor Morrissey, and the WVPSC to oppose MARL.

The following talking points can be used as we continue to lobby our lawmakers, Governor Morrissey, and the WV Public Service Commission to deny NextEra's proposal to cross our state. Contact information follows on page 3.

TALKING POINTS

-WV is already doing its part to export electricity. We are 5th in the nation in energy production while only consuming three-fifths of that energy.

-WV is being used as an energy pass-through corridor to Virginia without meaningful benefit for our residents. MARL was specifically designed to serve the needs of data centers in VA. Construction crews for this project are likely to be from out of state.

-The negative effects of MARL on West Virginians are significant:

- Utility customers would see a RATE INCREASE to fund construction and maintenance for the transmission line.
- PROPERTY VALUES will be ADVERSELY IMPACTED, owners would see the value of their land diminished and could be forced to give up land, often held in their family for generations. Limitations of land use will impact agriculture, tourism and businesses.
- WV ECONOMIC BENEFIT IS MINIMAL, no long-term jobs, no direct delivery of electricity, no benefit, just a rate increase.
- Potential ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS include deforestation, erosion and sedimentation, and chemical pollution from construction and maintenance. Herbicides used to control vegetation along a 200-foot right-of-way would endanger private and public ponds, streams and waterways. Clearing land for lines leads to habitat loss and disrupts the ecosystems, especially in forests and wetlands.
- Popular, natural RECREATIONAL AREAS would be ADVERSELY AFFECTED. In Monongalia County, some of the proposed routes cross and parallel various parts of Cheat Lake. This recreational area contributes greatly to the economy of the area such as hotels, restaurants, marinas and many other businesses used by visitors. Other routes cross Coopers Rock State Forest, as well as public lands in Pennsylvania and Maryland.
- HEALTH CONCERNS exist related to Electro Magnetic Fields (EMFs) from the line. Studies of health issues may not be conclusive, but do you want to risk exposing yourself, your family, or your pets to EMFs?
- High-Voltage lines usually emit a “corona discharge”, an AUDIBLE CRACKLING OR HISSING sound, especially during wet weather. They interfere with radio and cell phone reception.

Below is the beginning of a **SAMPLE LETTER** where the above talking points can be used.

Dear :

I oppose the construction of the massive MARL transmission lines being proposed by NextEra Energy and First Energy because the negative effects of this project far outweigh the minimal benefits to residents of West Virginia. The primary purpose of this construction project is to support hundreds of data centers in northern Virginia. I object to West Virginians being forced to subsidize this project for the economic gain of Virginia. The negative effects that I am concerned about include (take from bullet points above and/or provide your own).

(Name, contact for possible reply such as email, address, and/or phone)

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REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

Unsure of your WV House of Delegate or Senate District Representative?

Enter your address at: <https://www.mapwv.gov/vote/>

WV STATE GOVERNOR:

Patrick Morrisey To comment, visit Website: <http://governor.wv.gov> or Email: Governor@wv.gov 304.558.2000 or 1.888.438.2731; or write to: Office of the Governor/ 1900 Kanawha Blvd, East/ Charleston, WV 25305. Contact the Governor's office and voice your opposition to the NextEra Energy Transmission Lines running through WV.

WV Public Service Commission (PSC) www.psc.state.wv.us/ is the Utility Regulatory Agency. Address: WVPSC/ 201 Brooks St/ Charleston, WV 25301 304.340.0300 or 1.800.344.5113 Once NextEra submits an application to the WVPSC, a docket number will be assigned. The PSC will issue a notice of filing and start the procedural schedules. Once a docket number is assigned, it is time for public comment on opposing the NextEra project. The public will have a limited number of days for public comments. The PSC has the Final Authority to approve or deny NextEra's application.

Mailing Address for the following, Both the House of Delegates and Senators: 1-Name, 2-Room (number varies by representative) Building 1, 3-State Capitol Complex, 4-Charleston, WV 25305. Capitol Main Phone: 304.340.3900

HOUSE OF DELEGATES by DISTRICT for MONONGALIA and PRESTON County:

77 (Part of both Mon and Wetzel) **Joe Statler** Joe.Statler@wvhouse.gov 304.340.3125 Room 434M-A
Local: 97 Long Drain Rd. Core, WV 26541 304.376.7336

78 (Part of Mon) **Geno Chiarelli** Geno.Chiarelli@wvhouse.gov 304.340.3158 Room 223E

79 (Part of Mon) **Evan Hansen** Evan.Hansen@wvhouse.gov 304.340.3125 Room 2R
Local: PO Box 139, Morgantown, WV 26507

80 (Part of Mon) **John Williams** John.Williams@wvhouse.gov 304.340.3173 Room 4R

81 (Part of Mon) **Anitra Hamilton** Anitra.Hamilton@wvhouse.gov 304.340.3900 Room 2R
Local: 1342 Headlee Ave, Morgantown, WV 26505

82 (Part of Mon) **David McCormick** David.McCormick@wvhouse.gov 304.340.3127 Room 231E
Local: 714 Venture Dr. Box, 142 Morgantown, WV 26508 304.435.5220

83 (Preston) **George Street** George.Street@wvhouse.gov 304.340.3160 Room 222E

84 (Preston) **D. Roland Jennings** Roland.Jennings@wvhouse.gov 304.340.3396 Room 207E
Local: 2366 Evansville Pike, Thornton, WV 26440

SENATORS: Districts 2, 13 and 14

2-Charles H. Clements Charles.Clements@wvsenate.gov 304.357.7827 Room 417M District
Phone: 304.455.5339 (Part of Mon, Marion, Marshall and All of Wetzel, Tyler and Doddridge)

2-Chris Rose Chris.Rose@wvsenate.gov 304.357.7902 Room 209W (Part of Monongalia, Marion,
Marshall and All of Wetzel, Tyler and Doddridge)

13-Joey Garcia Joey.Garcia@wvsenate.gov 304.357.7961 Room 213W (Part of Mon, part of Marion)

13-Mike Oliverio Mike.Oliverio@wvsenate.gov 304.357.7919 Room 206W (Part of Mon, part of Marion)

14-Jay Taylor Jay.Taylor@wvsenate.gov 304.357.7914 Room 217W (All of Preston, Tucker, Grant,
Hardy, Mineral and part of Taylor)

14-Randy Smith Randy.Smith@wvsenate.gov 304.357.7995 Room 229M (All of Preston, Tucker, Grant,
Hardy, Mineral and part of Taylor)

RESOURCES

West Virginians Against Transmission Line Injustice www.WVATLI.org (Use top right menu bar to access more info and options the WVATLI provides, click on the Facebook icon and it takes you to the WVATLI Facebook group titled **WATI**.) **WVATLI** advocates for the rights and interests of WV by raising awareness through education, collaboration and grassroots organizing to be sure the residents are heard and prioritized in the decision-making process. Please go to this site and sign their online Petition to make your voice heard. This organization began by advocating for the residents of Hampshire and Mineral Counties in WV and has offered to expand to other counties to share their great resources that we all can benefit from, so visit the site now and in the future. Their Facebook group: WATI

Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis <http://IEEFA.org> See May 2025 article: "West Virginia Ratepayers Footing the Bill for Infrastructure Build Out" by Cathy Kunkel, energy consultant.

Stop Path www.StopPathWV.com Started in 2009 to protect the interests of Jefferson County, WV citizens and landowners, it has continued its work to include other proposed transmission lines in WV including the MARL line. Keryn Newman was instrumental and successful in stopping a prior powerline project. She is still very active and blogs on StopPath.

West Virginia Citizen Action Group WVCAG.org Since 1974 WV CAG has advocated for better public policy, rights of individuals, a clean environment, and a stronger democratic process. Please visit their website for more information and look for future posting related to the NextEra Transmission project.

CALL to ACTION

How YOU can make a difference

1. Sign hard copy petitions opposing the MARL transmission line project wherever you see them
2. Sign the online petition at www.wvatli.org
3. Email, call, or write Gov Morrissey. He appoints the members of the WVPSC. Use the sample letter and talking points above to write your email or letter.
4. Email, call, or write your elected WV delegates and senators. Use the sample letter and talking points above. Ask them to come out publicly in opposition to these high voltage transmission lines. See the list of elected officials above.
5. Once Nextera Energy has submitted their application and a docket number has been assigned, and this is very, very important-we NEED you to flood the WV Public Service Commission with emails, phone calls, and letters stating your opposition to this project. They have the final say as to whether this transmission line project is approved or not. You may want to **draft it now** and save because we will have a very short time frame to submit our emails and letters of opposition once the application is submitted.

Be sure to write “I Oppose MARL” in the subject heading.