

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maryland Public Service Commission Approves Independence Energy Connection Project

MD PSC rules IEC in the public interest and approves Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)

BALTIMORE (July 1, 2020) – Transource Energy has secured a key approval necessary to construct the Independence Energy Connection and bring energy savings and reliability to the region. The Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the Independence Energy Connection project in a June 30 ruling. The PSC found that “the Maryland portions of the proposed transmission line project, as reconfigured, will address existing and future regional congestion issues, as well as Maryland and regional reliability needs, while reducing the project’s impacts on Maryland’s agricultural, environmental, and natural resources.” The project still needs approval by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to move forward.

“Transource is pleased that Maryland’s Public Service Commission found the Independence Energy Connection project to be in the public’s interest and granted its approval for the project to move forward in Maryland,” said Todd Burns, Transource director. “The settlement agreement approved by the PSC is the result of collaboration by all stakeholders involved, including landowners, incumbent utilities and state agencies, and we are grateful to the PSC for its thorough review process. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with all stakeholders as the project moves forward.”

The IEC is designed to reduce costly congestion on the regional transmission grid as identified by PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization responsible for managing the high-voltage electricity grid for 13 states, including Maryland and Pennsylvania. It relieves growing reliability issues in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 2016, PJM selected Transource’s solution to address the market-efficiency issues and awarded construction of the project to the company. Transource filed the original applications to build the IEC project with the state commissions in December 2017. During the course of the regulatory proceedings, several alternatives were introduced by various parties, including the Power Plant Research Program in Maryland.

Under the terms of the Maryland settlement agreement approved by the PSC, Transource will build a 4.5-mile western portion of the project, from Washington County to a substation in Pennsylvania. Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. will build the 6.6-mile eastern portion of the project, composed of two transmission line segments from substations in Harford County to a substation across the border in Pennsylvania. The Harford County segment of the project will also cross portions of Baltimore County and was redesigned from the original proposal to avoid greenfield construction by using BGE’s existing utility infrastructure and rights-of-way. Together, the western and redesigned eastern portions of the project are known as Alternative Project 9A.

In announcing the PSC decision, Jason Stanek, chairman of the Maryland Public Service Commission, stated, “The Commission finds that this project will provide benefits to Maryland ratepayers, including enhanced reliability of electricity service and greater access to least-

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cost energy from elsewhere within PJM, while also accommodating future development of renewable technologies such as offshore wind.”

Additional information can be found on the project website at <https://www.transourceenergyprojects.com/IndependenceEnergyConnection/>.

About Transource®

Transource® is a partnership between American Electric Power (AEP) and Evergy, Inc. focused on the development of, and investment in, competitive electric transmission projects across the United States. In all, AEP and Evergy own and operate nearly 45,000 miles of transmission lines and have more than 100 years of expertise in the planning, design, engineering, construction and operation of transmission systems. AEP owns 86.5 percent of Transource. Evergy owns 13.5. Transource is a member of three regional transmission organizations — PJM Interconnection, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) — which together serve all or part of 28 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and the province of Manitoba in Canada. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Transource also has offices in Kansas City, Missouri; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Dallas, Texas.

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