

OPPOSE FEDERAL DESIGNATION OF A POWER LINE THROUGH THE UPPER SHENDANDOAH VALLEY

New 500-kV Power Line Proposed

Allegheny Power and Dominion have announced preliminary plans for a 500-kilovolt power line through Frederick, Shenandoah, Warren, Clarke, Fauquier and Loudoun counties. The aim is to feed power from Ohio and other states into the Northern Virginia power grid and up to the Northeast states.

The proposed 500-kilovolt power line would stand up to 155 feet tall and require up to a 200 foot wide right-of-way. It would plow through battlefields and parks, private land, publicly held open space, prime agricultural soils, historic sites, historic districts, nationally-acclaimed viewsheds and more than 85,000 acres of land under conservation easements.

Traditionally, states determine where and when power transmission corridors will be built. A federal 2005 Energy Policy Act gave the Department of Energy the power to designate National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC), with the potential to overrule state authority, and the right to use federal eminent domain powers to seize property for the desired route.

Help us block national designation of a northern Virginia power line corridor. Citizens must oppose NIETC designation in letters and emails to the Department of Energy and the Secretary of Energy as soon as possible, and before October 10th

What is a NIETC?

A 'National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor', as assigned by the Secretary of Energy, is "any geographic area experiencing electric energy transmission capacity constraints or congestion that adversely affects consumers."

The Secretary of Energy can designate an NIETC after considering:

- "(A) the economic vitality and development of the corridor, or the end markets served by the corridor, may be constrained by lack of adequate or reasonably priced electricity;
- (B)(i) The economic growth in the corridor, or the end markets served by the corridor, may be jeopardized by reliance on limited sources of energy; and (ii) A diversification of supply is warranted;
- (C) The energy independence of the United States would be served by the designation;
- (D) The designation would be in the interest of national energy policy; and
- (E) The designation would enhance national defense and homeland security"

We believe the Department of Energy must study each of these criteria and demonstrate a clear national interest in approving new transmission corridors before it rushes approval of special corridors as requested by the private firms making the requests, such as PJM, proponent of the Northern Virginia corridor.

What is PJM?

PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. is the regional transmission organization (RTO) responsible for coordinating the movement of electricity in all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. PJM controls the high-voltage transmission grid, tells power producers how much energy to generate and adjusts import and export transactions.

On March 6, 2006, PJM filed a request to the Department of Energy asking them to designate a path into the DC-Baltimore Metropolitan Region as a "National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor." Pursuant to the Energy Act, the designation of a 'National Interest Corridor' would grant PJM a right-of-way that could potentially override county or state level opposition.

On June 23, 2006, PJM announced \$1.3 billion in transmission upgrades, "including a 240-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line from southwestern Pennsylvania to Virginia to be constructed by Allegheny Power and Dominion."

What Can You Do?

Write a personal letter to U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman and send a copy by email to the Department of Energy *before October 10*. Object to expedited approval of the Northern Virginia NIETC now!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO: www.pecva.org/powerline