

Susquehanna-Roseland Line and the NPS Review

How to Make the Most of your Comments

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Susquehanna-Roseland line found what we knew all along- the **NO BUILD Alternative** is the best for the environment!

Now we need to work together to ensure NPS selects the **NO BUILD** as the best alternative for our 3 parks: the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA), the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and National Recreation Water Trail, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) would

The NPS needs broad public support to select the “No Build Alternative” (Alternative 1) as the “NPS-preferred Alternative”, so make sure your voice is heard!

Top 3 Points to Make in Your Comments:

1. The NPS must select the NO BUILD alternative (Alt. 1) as the “NPS-preferred alternative”
2. All action alternatives will result in an **impairment** of Park resources; the mitigation plan does not go far enough to prevent the **impairment** of Park resources
3. Additional alternatives need to be examined in the final EIS including non-transmission alternatives

Additional Talking Points:

- “NO BUILD”, Alternative 1 is the only acceptable alternative. Any “build” alternative would have serious, irreversible impacts on Park resources including endangered species, scenic vistas, forests, and visitor experience. This project will impair the scenic and cultural landscapes that these park units were created to preserve.
- Protection of the functions and values provided by upland forests and wetlands in combating flooding, providing habitat to threatened and endangered species, and allowing for groundwater recharge provide a greater public benefit than the Susquehanna-Roseland project.
- Impairment of Park resources would not be “temporary.” Construction of access roads, staging areas, widening rights-of-way and the destruction of acres of forests will result in permanent destruction of park resources, especially core forests and landscape connectivity values.
- Demand response programs, energy efficiency and conservation, and renewable local energy generation can obviate the need for this line, and do not require the use of ratepayer money to construct obsolete infrastructure projects. Energy demand in New Jersey has dropped over the past three years in part due to such programs and this project has not been updated to reflect that change in energy use.

- The Mitigation Plans Do Not Do Enough to Prevent Impairment of Park Resources:
 - The “Mitigation Plan” is a list of Best Management Practices, NOT a plan by the applicant to truly protect our resources
 - There will still be blasting in geologically sensitive areas
 - Sedimentation of waterways will occur, especially in steep slope areas
 - Construction and access roads will still be in wetlands and wetlands buffers along the entire ROW
 - No firm plan in place to combat invasive species or for direct impacts to threatened and endangered species habitats
 - Significant roads and sites would be closed to the public as part of the mitigation plan

- More Alternatives Must Be Included in the NPS Review:
 - Putting the lines underground
 - Less sensitive regional routes, such as running the lines along Route 80
 - Non-transmission Alternatives such as Smart Grid, energy efficiency, and demand response

*****Tell NPS how this project will impact your experience at the parks. Talk about how your ability to hike, fish, canoe, explore, and other otherwise enjoy the parks will be impacted by ruined views, park closures, road detours, and logged forests*****

Speak out against the line at 3 upcoming hearings:

Tues, Jan 24, 2012

Fernwood Hotel and Resort
U.S. 209 Bushkill, PA 18324

Wed, Jan 25, 2012

Stroudsmoor Country Inn
RD#4 Stroudsmoor Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Thurs, Jan 26, 2012

Farmstead Golf and Country Club
88 Lawrence Road
Lafayette, NJ 07848

Submit Comments online at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=25147>

Helpful Acronyms:

AT – Appalachian Trail

CEQ – Center for Environmental Quality

DEIS – Draft Environmental Impact Statement

DEWA – Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

FEIS – Final Environmental Impact Statement

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

NPS – National Park Service

PPL – Pennsylvania Power & Light

PSE&G – Public Service Electric & Gas

ROD – Record of Decision

ROW – Right of Way

S-R – Susquehanna-Roseland Transmission Line