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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

February 16, 2007

The Honorable Wendell F. Holland, Chairman
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
3rd Floor, Room N-304
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Chairman Holland,

As you may be aware, in June 2006, the PJM Interconnection approved Allegheny Energy's (AE) proposal to expand its electric transmission system. Specifically, AE's proposal, designated the *Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line* or TrAIL, would include the construction of a 240-mile, 500kV transmission line, which geographically would extend from the Prexy 502 Junction in Washington County to a proposed 502 Junction in Dunkard Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania; traverse all of West Virginia; and extend into parts of Maryland and Virginia. It is my understanding that 40 miles of the proposed power line would be sited in my 50th Legislative District. Consequently, this letter is forwarded to express my initial thoughts for your consideration regarding the proposed transmission line project.

Although AE is still in the route selection process and will not submit its application to the Commission for authorization to locate and build the transmission line until early or mid-March, I feel it is imperative that the Commission considers all factors related to the siting of the proposed transmission line, including economic, geographic, environmental, and construction factors; and most importantly, the health impact on families and their children who may live in close proximity to the selected site. The health and welfare of my constituents is of extreme importance to me. I submit that their opinions and positions regarding the feasibility and suspected health consequences of a high voltage transmission line should neither be discounted nor superseded in favor of a project that will not and is not designed to improve the reliability of the electric infrastructure in the 50th Legislative District.


For years, some of my constituents have endured power outage after power outage after power outage; some of which were of significant duration, and have only recently, after a

formal complaint was filed with the Commission, received a positive response from the power company. Nevertheless, some of these same people may be forced to face the reality of a high voltage transmission line, which is not intended to improve reliability of electric service to their homes and businesses but to electric customers in the urban centers of the mid-Atlantic region. I therefore submit that the lives of my constituents should not be permanently disrupted by a project that will surely result in increased electric rates but will provide them with no economic or quality-of-life benefits.

Some commentators have opined that high voltage transmission lines provide a 20th Century solution to a 21st Century problem. Although I will leave the veracity of that proclamation to the experts, I am very cognizant of the need to improve the nation's long neglected transmission infrastructure. However, I am not certain whether an interstate transmission line specifically designed to improve transmission capacity to satisfy the insatiable need for energy in one region of the country to the detriment of citizens who live in another region, particularly my constituents, who will not personally benefit from the increased capacity but will endure the adverse health, economic, and environmental impacts is in the public interest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I thank you for your consideration and would appreciate any updates the Commission may be able to provide on the proposed transmission line.

Respectfully,



Bill DeWeese
The Majority Leader

cc: The Honorable J. Barry Stout
The Honorable James H. Cawley
The Honorable Kim Pizzigrilli
The Honorable Terrance J. Fitzpatrick