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Sugarloaf Conservancy Sending Letters to Affected Property Owners

Letter to Maryland Public Service Commission Requesting Denial of PATH's Application

Although Allegheny Energy filed with the Maryland Public Service Commission (MPSC) on May 19th, they informed those attending the May 18th stakeholders meeting that they would not be notifying homeowners except as required by law. The law only requires them to send notification 30 days before a MPSC public meeting. As the first public meeting will not likely occur until late summer or early fall, Sugarloaf Conservancy has sent letters to those whose property will be affected. Attached is a copy of this letter. The PATH transmission line will be attempting to purchase easements or use Eminent Domain to take an easement, leaving the property owner to pay taxes on this land.

Also attached is a letter (and an accompanying letter by the Governors of ten east coast states) sent to the MPSC by Douglas Kaplan, requesting the application filed on May 19th be denied. Ten east coast Governors including the Honorable Governor Martin O'Malley have publicly declared their preference for local power generation instead of bringing power from the Midwest. In this letter addressed to congressional leaders dated March 2, 2009 the governors explicitly state: "we must express our concern about the significant risks posed by recent proposals regarding transmission that we believe could jeopardize our states' efforts to develop wind resources and inject federal jurisdiction into an area traditionally handled by states and region." Although the basis for the letter is about the Federal pending legislation regarding the transmission of wind power from the Midwest, the same would apply to coal generating power plants located in the Midwest.

The MPSC is scheduled to have a hearing on June 3rd at 1:00 PM where a decision will be made on accepting the application. The hearing will be held at the MPSC, Sixteenth Floor Hearing Room William Donald Schaefer Tower; 6 St. Paul Street; Baltimore, Maryland 21202-6806

Sugarloaf Conservancy's next meeting will be June 6, 2009, 10:00 AM at 3409A Urbana Pike. See our websites for additional information. www.sugarloafconservancy.org and www.nometowers.org.