

June 24, 2013

Hon. Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
2nd Floor North
Commonwealth Keystone Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: A-2012-2340872, PROPOSED NORTHEAST-POCONO RELIABILITY PROJECT

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

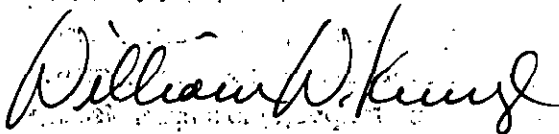
The Nature Conservancy submits the following comments on the proposed route for the project: **We have concerns about the route's potential impact on the natural environment. The proposed route would traverse significant natural features on the Pocono Plateau, one of Pennsylvania's outstanding natural landscapes. The route would require 57 miles of new transmission lines and six miles of existing ROW, affecting 12.2 miles of state and private conservation lands. Numerous Exceptional Value streams and more than four miles of headwater wetlands would be crossed. Thirty-one miles of forest patches greater than 1,000 acres would be affected. Wetlands, streams, and large un-fragmented forests are among Pennsylvania's most important habitat types for wildlife.**

Millions of dollars in public funds and private philanthropy have been invested in the conservation of these natural resources. The Nature Conservancy and other non-profit land trusts have been directly involved in conserving many of the habitat acres that would be affected by the project.

In considering the proposed project and its location, we hope the above summary of natural resource impacts will be seriously considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,



William W. Kunze
Pennsylvania Executive Director

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The Nature
Conservancy



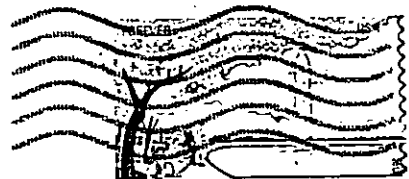
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Pennsylvania Office
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Building #1, Suite 200
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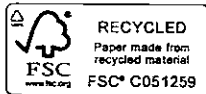
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