



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Bushkill, Pennsylvania 18324

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D5015

FEB 01 2010

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Post Office Box 3265
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1923

A-2009-2082652

RECEIVED
2010 FEB -2 AM 10:40
P.A.P.U.C.
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential impacts for the proposed construction of a high voltage electric transmission line traversing three NPS units in Pennsylvania and New Jersey: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA), Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (MDSR), and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA) (Figure 1).

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation and PSE&G, jointly known as the Applicants, have proposed the expansion of an existing 230,000-volt (230kV) electric transmission line from Susquehanna (Berwick, Pennsylvania) to Roseland, New Jersey (the S-R Line) (Figure 1). The project is based on direction for electric transmission expansion provided by the Regional Transmission Operator, PJM Interconnection, which oversees the overall movement of wholesale electricity between many electric utilities throughout a 13 state region. The Applicants' proposed project includes replacing the existing 80-foot towers with new larger towers (up to 200 feet high) and adding an additional 500,000-volt (500kV) transmission line. This would necessitate widening the existing right-of-way, and in areas, would require granting additional legal rights beyond the Applicants' current rights. The Applicants' proposed project would also include the construction of new access roads and the rehabilitation and widening of existing roads for accessing the transmission line corridor. The current EIS study area, developed by NPS (Figure 2), includes the area affected by the 4.18 mile portion of the S-R Line. The study area has been expanded beyond the right of way to include other areas within the parks affected by alternatives not yet developed by NPS and the surrounding human environment affected directly by the NPS action.

The EIS would compare three routes that have been proposed by the Applicants to determine the alternative that would minimize impacts to the natural and human resources within the parks and surrounding areas. The three routes, Alternatives A, B, and C are displayed in Figure 3.

Other alternatives are currently being developed by NPS and may include relocation of the project partially outside of park(s) boundaries; installation of portions of the entire upgraded power line underground; installation of the power line on the bottom of the river; or an alternative that uses direct current from two wires instead of the proposed three to eight wires. Additionally, the No Action Alternative is also being considered, in which the existing power lines running from Susquehanna to Roseland would be kept but the current request for permits would not be granted.

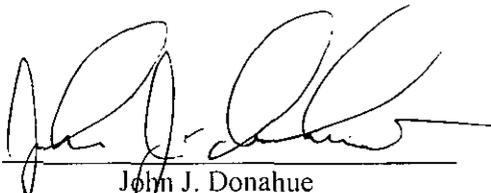
The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the proposed project and to request information you may have on resources potentially affected by the proposed action and suggestions for potential alternatives.

Your response within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this request, please write to the address below or contact Amanda Stein by phone at (570) 426-2472 or email at Amanda_Stein@nps.gov. Letters have also been sent to the agencies and tribal governments listed in Enclosure 1.

Please send responses to:

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
HQ 1 River Road, off US 209
Bushkill, PA 18324-9999

Sincerely,



John J. Donahue
Superintendent, DEWA



Pamela Underhill
Superintendent, APPA

Enclosures:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Enclosure 1. | Listing of Agencies and Tribal Governments |
| Figure 1. | Location Map for the Parks |
| Figure 2. | Study Area Map |
| Figure 3. | PPL and PSE&G Proposed Route Map |

Enclosure 1. Listing of Agencies and Tribal Governments

FEDERAL AGENCIES

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Jersey Field Office
927 North Main Street
Heritage Square, Building D
Pleasantville, NJ 08232

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jared Branwein, Delaware River Coordinator
P.O. Box 406
Tobyhanna, PA 18466-0406

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Philadelphia District
Wanamaker Bldg., 100 Penn Forest East
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 3, Office of Environmental Programs
Barbara Rudnick- NEPA Team Leader
1650 Arch Street (2PM52)
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Brigadier General Jonathan Maddux
U.S. Department of the Army
171 Buffington Road
Picatinny Arsenal, NJ 07806-5000

U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

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TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Tamara Francis
Cultural Preservation Director
The Delaware Nation
P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005

Brice Obermeyer (NAGPRA and Sec. 106 Rep)
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Emporia State University
1200 Commercial St., Box 4022
Butcher Education Center, RM 115D
Emporia, KS 66801

Sherry White, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Stockbridge-Munsee Community
P.O. Box 70
Bowler, WI 54416

Barry Snyder, Sr, President
Seneca Nation of Indians
PO Box 231
Salamanca, NY 14779

Ms. Kathleen Mitchell, THPO
Seneca Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office
467 Center Street
Salamanca, NY 14779

LeRoy Howard, Chief
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1283
Miami, OK 74355

Emerson Webster, Chief
Tonawanda Seneca Nation Office
7027 Meadville Road
Via Basom, NY 14013

Darwin Hill
Tonawanda Seneca Nation Office
7027 Meadville Road
Via Basom, NY 14013

STATE GOVERNMENTS

Multi-State:

Delaware River Basin Commission
Mr. William J. Muszynski
25 State Police Drive
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

STATE GOVERNMENTS

New Jersey:

New Jersey Highlands Council
Ms. Eileen Swan, Executive Director
100 North Road
Chester, NJ 07930

New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office
Mr. Daniel D. Saunders
P.O. Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. David Chanda
P.O. Box 400
501 East State Street, 3rd Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Siting Approval Office
Two Gateway Center, 8th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

New Jersey Department of Transportation
Executive Director, Northern District
200 Stierli Court
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856-1332

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry
Regional Superintendent
P.O. Box 404
501 State Street, 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404

STATE GOVERNMENTS

Pennsylvania:

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Dennis DeMara
409 Lackawanna Ave
3rd Floor, Oppenheim Building
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Ms. Barbara Franco
300 North St.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Transportation & Safety Building, Room 1200
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Mr. John Arway, Chief of Environmental Services Division
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9620

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

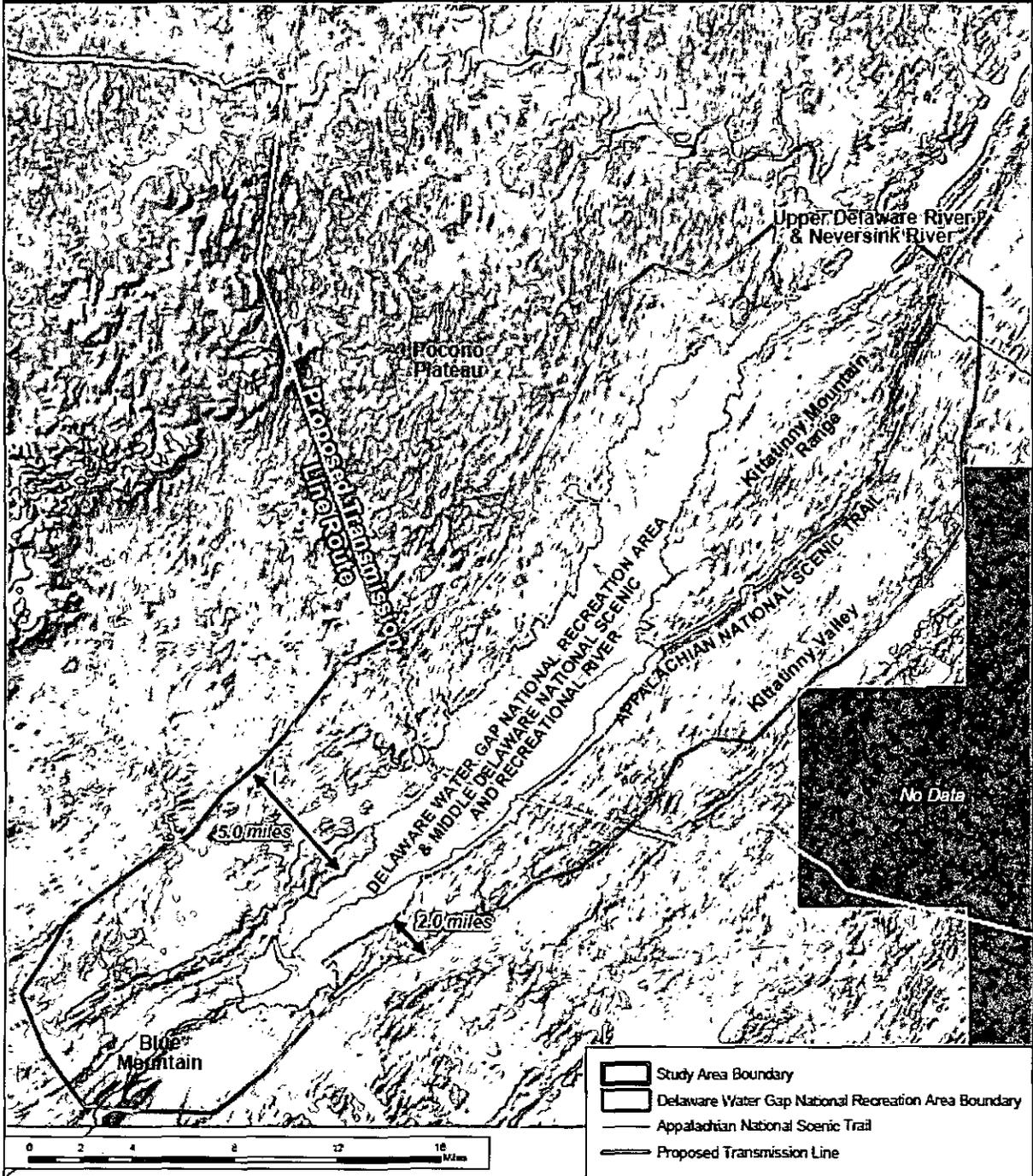
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Mr. Cal DuBrock, Director of Bureau of Wildlife Management
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate
Attn: Ms. Dianne E. Dusman
555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-1923

**FIGURE 2.
STUDY AREA BOUNDARY**

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
National Park Service Department of the Interior



Prepared by: National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Data Source: Base cartographic Geographic Information System (GIS) Layers, including 10m Digital Elevation Model (DEM)
Date: 12/28/2009

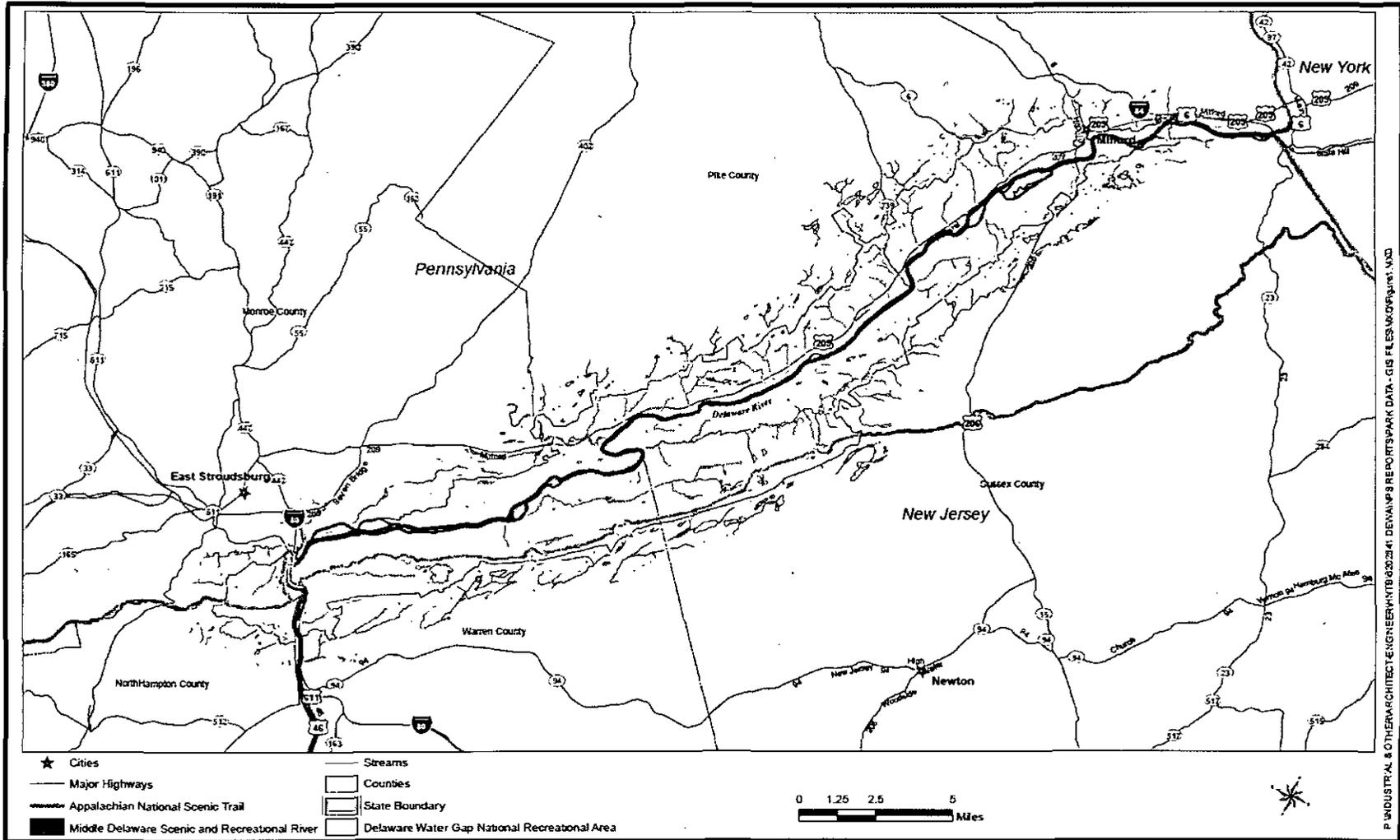


Figure 1. Location Map for the Parks
 (Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and Appalachian National Scenic Trail)

FIGURE 3A. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES IN PENNSYLVANIA

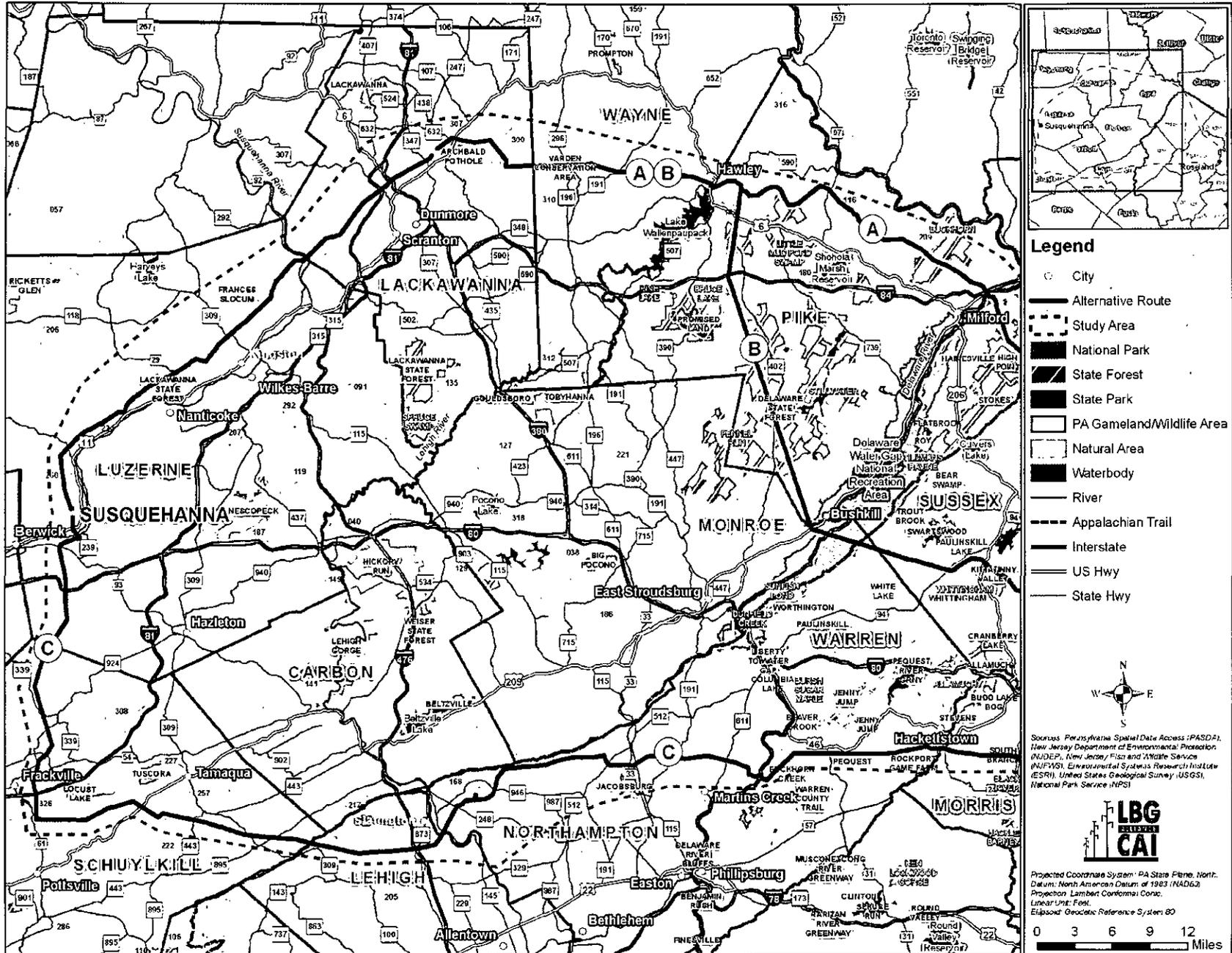
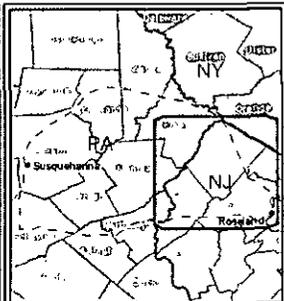
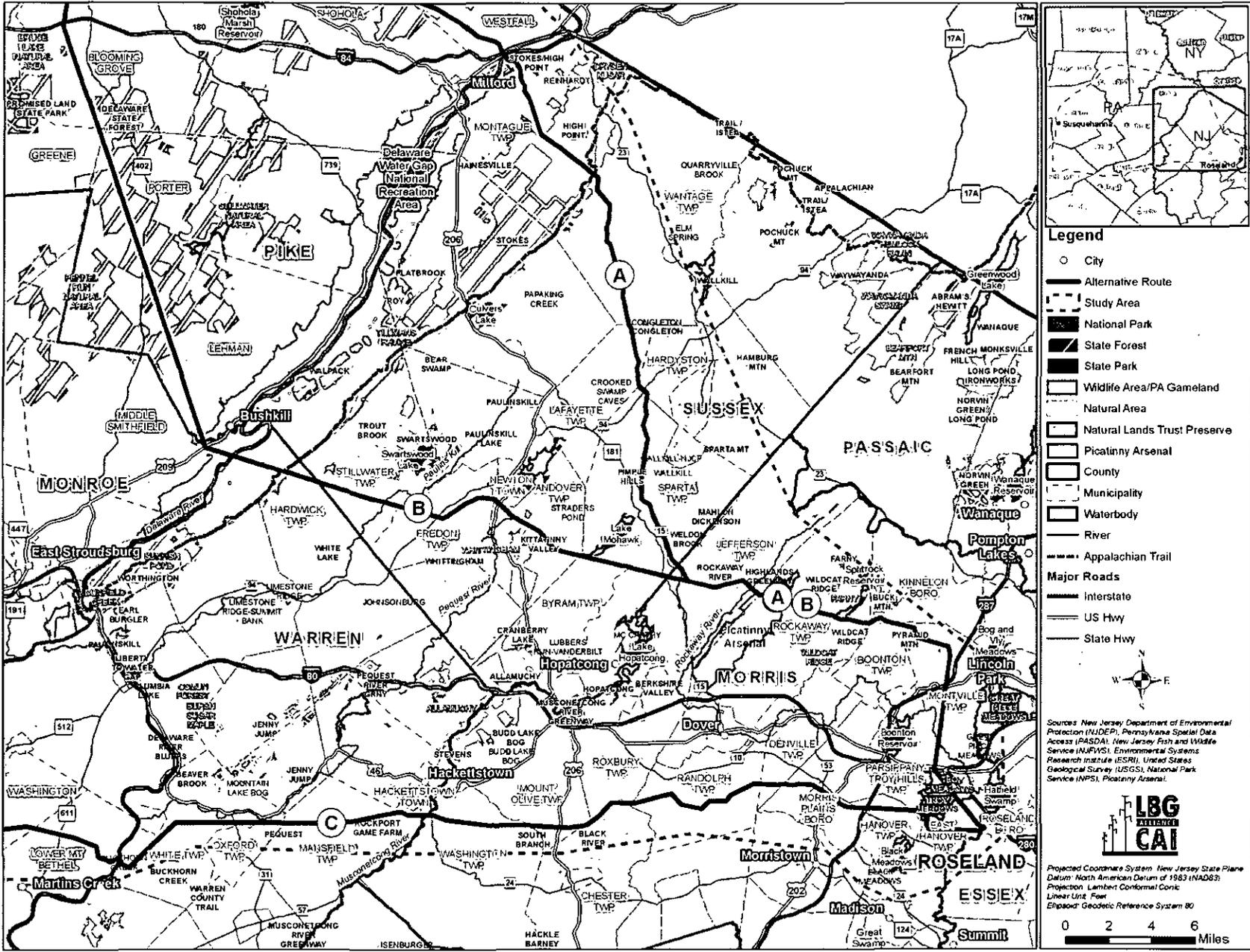


FIGURE 3B. ALTERNATIVE ROUTES IN NEW JERSEY



Legend

- City
- Alternative Route
- - - Study Area
- ▨ National Park
- ▩ State Forest
- ▧ State Park
- ▨ Wildlife Area/PA Gameland
- ▨ Natural Area
- ▨ Natural Lands Trust Preserve
- ▨ Picatinny Arsenal
- ▨ County
- - - Municipality
- ▨ Waterbody
- River
- - - Appalachian Trail
- Major Roads**
- Interstate
- US Hwy
- State Hwy



Sources: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA), New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Service (NJFWIS), Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), United States Geological Survey (USGS), National Park Service (NPS), Picatinny Arsenal.



Projected Coordinate System: New Jersey State Plane
 Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Linear Unit: Feet
 Ellipsoid: Geodetic Reference System 80



**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**
DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
BUSHKILL, PA 18324

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
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Harrisburg, PA 17105-1923

