

Environmental Impact Statement

Appalachian National Scenic Trail
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Philadelphia District



Project Background and Progress

PPL Electric Utilities Corporation and PSE&G (the Applicants) propose to expand the existing 230 kV electric transmission line from Susquehanna (Berwick, Pennsylvania) to Roseland, New Jersey (the S-R Line). In order to proceed with their proposed actions, the Applicants must obtain construction and right-of-way (ROW) permits from the NPS.

The NPS's purpose in taking action is to respond to the Applicants' expressed need to expand its current ROW; to access this ROW via existing park natural areas; to construct new and taller power line structures; and add an additional 500 kV power line. The NPS, therefore, has a duty to consider whether, and with what conditions, if any, to issue the requested permits.

Planning for the S-R Line EIS is progressing. The NPS has compiled relevant data, conducted scoping and focus group meetings with park stakeholders, and developed and refined the transmission route alternatives based on your input received earlier in the year.



Mountain laurel flowering

Legislation

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Public Law 90-543 (16 USC 1241 et. Seq.)

"...so located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreational potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant **scenic, historic, natural** or **cultural** qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass."

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

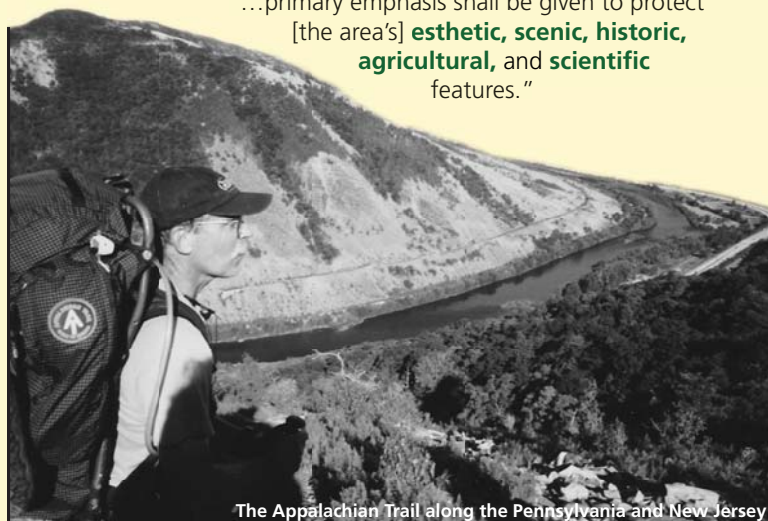
Public Law 89-158; 89th Congress HR 89

Calls for the "...preservation of the **scenic, scientific**, and **historic** features contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters..."

Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River

Public Law 95-625; National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 USC 1274), Section 705

"...primary emphasis shall be given to protect [the area's] **esthetic, scenic, historic, agricultural**, and **scientific** features."



The Appalachian Trail along the Pennsylvania and New Jersey border

Park Purpose/Significance

APPA, DEWA, and MDSR are public parks for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. They are significant in many ways, by providing the following:

- Waters of exceptional quality (the approximately 40 miles of river within DEWA are designated the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River);
- One of the largest public open spaces in the northeastern metropolitan corridor;
- Outstanding geologic and natural features including the world renowned Delaware Water Gap;
- Habitat for rare and threatened species, as well as a significant pathway for migratory birds;
- Open spaces that create a multi-state greenway corridor;
- Significant concentrations and diversity of known archeological resources; and
- A continuous path from Maine to Georgia, providing for maximum outdoor recreation for travel on foot through the wild, scenic, wooded, pastoral and culturally significant lands of the Appalachian Mountains.