

Environmental Impact Statement

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

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Purpose and Need

Need for Action

In 2007, the Regional Transmission Operator (RTO), PJM, identified a need for a 500-kV transmission line between Susquehanna in Pennsylvania and Roseland in New Jersey as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP) process. The 2008 and 2009 PJM RTEPs confirmed the need for the project.

The Federal action by NPS is needed because the Applicants have submitted the required applications and construction plan to expand the size of the current ROW, access the ROW through existing natural areas, to construct new and taller power lines and add an additional 500-kV power line in accordance with 36 CFR part 14 and applicable NPS Management Policies. The NPS therefore has a duty to consider whether, and with what conditions, if any, to issue the requested permits.

Purpose of Action

The Federal action under consideration for this EIS is the Applicants' proposal that the NPS grant the permits it has requested. 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, in light of the purposes and resources of the affected units of the national park system, as expressed in statutes, regulations, and policies.

Common blue violet

