



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAY 16 2011

Mr. Joseph Nelson
Counsel to the Potomac Appalachian Transmission
Highline (PATH) Companies
Van Ness Feldman
Attorneys at Law
1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007-3877

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Thank you for your letter dated March 17, 2011, requesting the National Park Service (NPS) to temporarily hold in abeyance our review of the pending right-of-way authorization requests for the PATH, through to December 31, 2011.

After thoroughly evaluating options within our policy and legislated mandates, we have decided your request is reasonable and have decided to grant your request. This decision does not indicate either support of, or opposition to, your project application.

To implement the decision to grant an abeyance, we will cease permit processing activity until the PATH companies formally request to resume processing with clearly substantiated public need for the project, or until December 31, 2011, whichever comes first. Limited reimbursable funds already allocated to the NPS may be necessary to bring the process to a halt in such a manner that if necessary it can be restarted. These specifics will be worked out between your companies and our contracting and budgetary administrative services. Please contact Morgan Elmer, Program Manager at (303) 969-2317 to schedule these meetings.

Per your request letter, please provide to us regular updates of PJM's progress. If after December 31, 2011, there is no new information about the established need for your project based on a new RTEP model to cross the NPS and U.S. Forest Service lands, we will revisit our decision and evaluate how to proceed.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Elmer at (303) 969 2317. Thank you for your patience while we process your request.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Reidenbach 5/16/11

Dennis R. Reidenbach
Regional Director
Northeast Region

Date

Woody Smeck 5.16.11

Woody Smeck
Acting Regional Director
National Capital Region

Date

Cc:

Kevin Brandt, Superintendent Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park
Rebecca Harriet, Superintendent Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Pamela Underhill, Superintendent Appalachian National Scenic Trail
David Briggs, Superintendent Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
Jason Reed, Forest Ranger Monongahela National Forest
David Hayes, Regional Planner and Transportation Liaison
Jacki Katzmire, North East Regional Environmental Coordinator
Morgan Elmer, Project Manager DSC
Janel McCurdy, Environmental Coordinator TEAMS Enterprise Unit
Andrew Tittler, DOI Northeast Regional Solicitor