

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Susquehanna to Roseland 500-kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way and Special Use Permit Draft Environmental Impact Statement

## Public Meeting

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

# Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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## WELCOME!

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## Please Sign In

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**Our goals for this meeting are to:**

- Present the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
  - Get your thoughts and ideas
- Respond to your questions during the Open House
  - Outline next steps and time frames



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## Project Purpose, Status, and Next Steps

### NPS and Applicant's Project

The federal action under consideration for this EIS is granting or denying the applicant's proposal by either issuing or not issuing the requested construction and right-of-way (ROW) permit. In accordance with the DO 12 Handbook: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making, the purpose component of an EIS defines the goals and objectives that are critical to meet if the NPS is to properly consider the proposal.

Accordingly, the purpose of the proposed action is to respond to the applicant's expressed request to construct a double 500-kV power line across three units of the national park system in light of the purposes and resources of the affected units of the national park system, as expressed in statutes, regulations, and policies.

Over the past few years, the NPS has compiled relevant data, conducted public scoping and alternative development meetings, focus group meetings with park stakeholders, and developed and refined the alternative locations for the transmission line crossing of NPS lands based on that input. The NPS has completed its preliminary analysis issued in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement and is seeking your comments on the alternatives under consideration for permit.



### Next Steps

Over the coming months NPS will be working to finalize the NEPA process, specific activities include:

Winter / Spring 2012	Review comments and revise analysis as appropriate
Spring 2012	Select a preferred alternative based on our analysis and public comments
Spring / Summer 2012	Complete the Final EIS for public distribution
Fall 2012	Complete the Record of Decision for public distribution



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## National Park Service Mission

### NPS Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.



### National Park Service Organic Act

The Organic Act creating the National Park Service states that the NPS will *"conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and...provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations"*.  
(16 USC 1, the National Park Service Organic Act)

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## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 Review

### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as Amended

The purpose of NEPA (42 USC §4321 et seq.) is *“to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between human beings and the physical environment for present and future generations.”*

- Mandates that every federal agency prepare an in-depth study of the impacts of *“major federal actions having a significant effect on the environment.”*
- Helps public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental impacts and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment.
- Ensures that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and actions are taken.

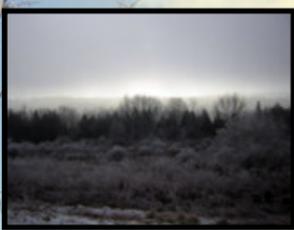


### National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as Amended

Section 106 of this act requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on properties listed or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). All actions affecting the parks must comply with this law, which is implemented through 36 CFR 800. Historic properties that might be affected include archeological resources, historic structures, and cultural landscapes.

In addition, the NHPA requires that federal agencies take actions to minimize harm to historic properties that would be adversely affected by a federal undertaking. Agreement on mitigation of adverse effects to historic properties is reached through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), if applicable; and, as required, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). Among other things, Section 110 of the NHPA also charges federal agencies with the responsibility for establishing preservation programs for the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the NRHP.

36 CFR 800 allows federal agencies to use NEPA to comply with Section 106 in a coordinated effort, subject to meeting the standards in the regulations. The NPS has chosen that option for this project, and is soliciting comments on effects to historic properties from the public and agencies during the public review period.



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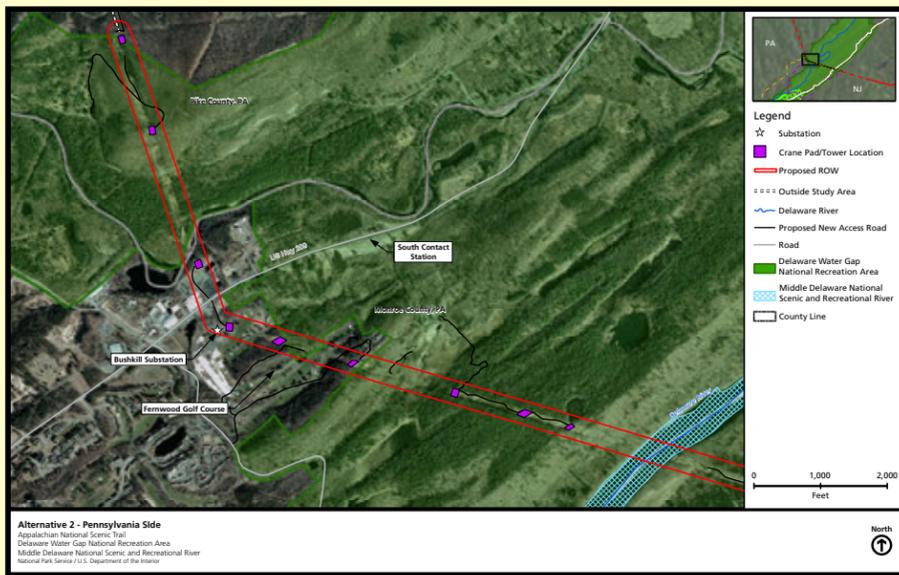
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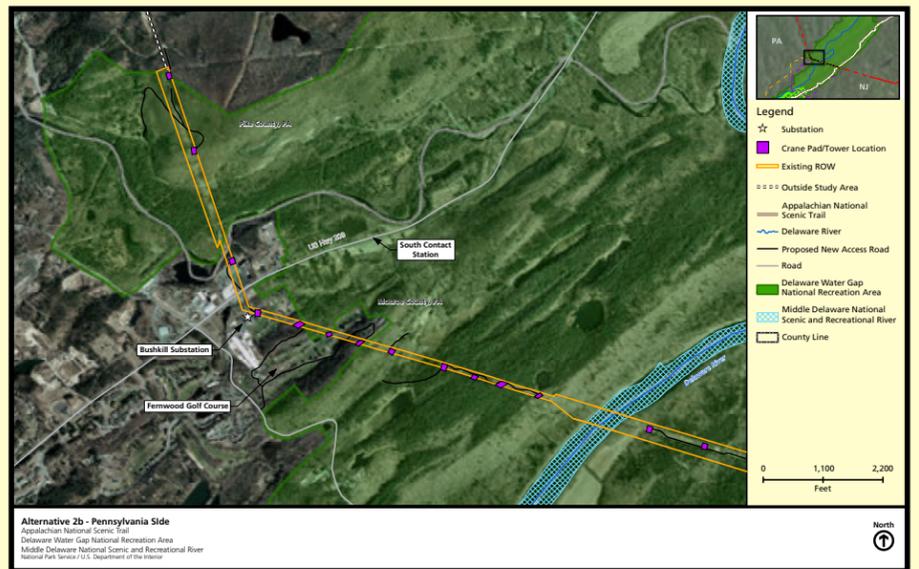
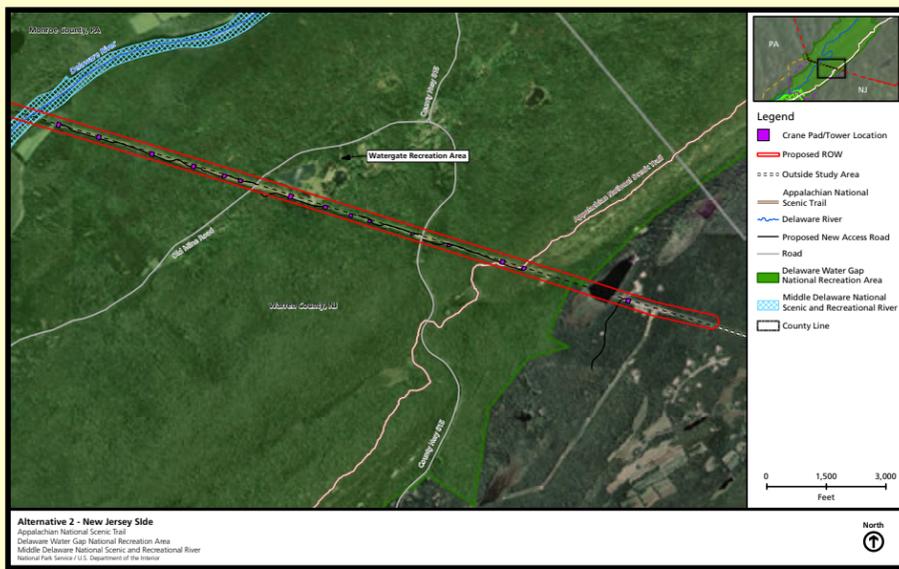


## Alternatives 1, 2, and 2b

**Alternative 1, No Action.** Current conditions would continue; permits would not be issued for the applicant's proposal.



**Alternative 2, applicant's proposed route.** The permit would be approved, and the S-R Line would follow the corridor of the existing transmission line through DEWA, MDSR, and APPA for 4.3 miles, requiring an expansion of the cleared ROW to approximately 200 to 380 feet in width and new taller towers would be installed with double circuit.



**Alternative 2b, applicant's alternate route.** Alternative 2b is similar to alternative 2 but would require two additional towers. According to the applicant, no additional ROW would be required to construct this alternative.

The NPS does not have authority to determine or dictate where the applicant continues the lines off park lands.



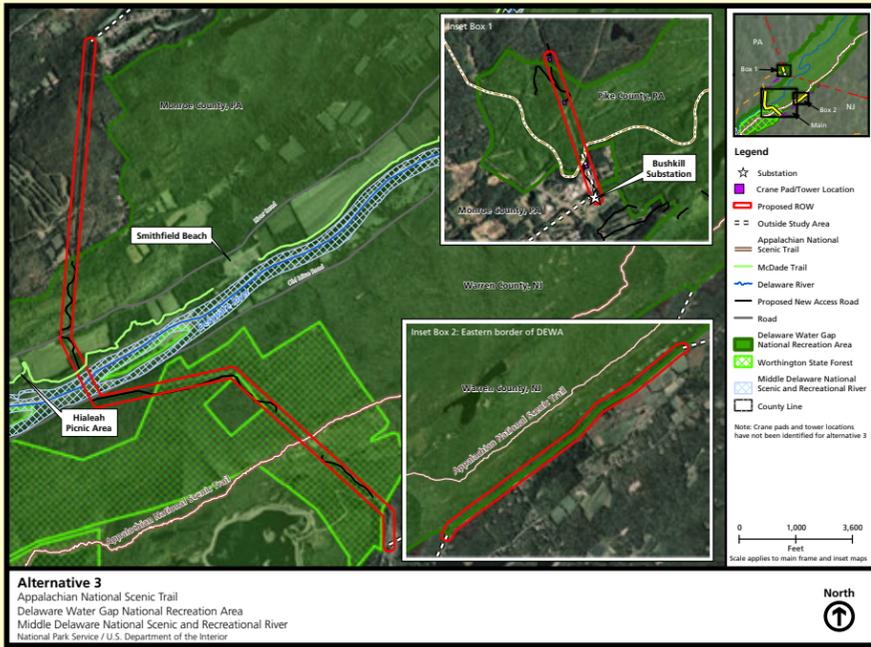
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## Alternatives 3, 4, and 5



**Alternative 3** would cross approximately 5.4 miles of NPS lands, and would require a ROW that ranges between 150 and 300 feet. The existing 230-kV Bushkill-Kittatinny Line ROW would be restored to natural conditions.



**Alternative 4** would require a ROW ranging from 200 to 300 feet, and would traverse approximately 1.5 miles of NPS lands. The existing 230-kV Bushkill-Kittatinny Line ROW would be restored to natural conditions. This alternative would not cross the MDSR.



**Alternative 5** would require a ROW ranging from 200 to 300 feet, and would traverse approximately 0.9 miles of NPS lands. The existing 230-kV Bushkill-Kittatinny Line ROW would be restored to natural conditions. This alternative would not cross the MDSR.

The NPS does not have authority to determine or dictate where the applicant continues the lines off park lands.

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## Comparison of Impacts on Natural Resources (by Action Alternative)

Alternative	Wetlands	Vegetation	Rare and Unique Communities
		Impacts from action alternatives would be caused by vegetation clearing, line construction, deconstruction of the existing line, potential spread of invasive species, and artificial maintenance of scrub shrub habitat.	Impacts from action alternatives would be caused by vegetation clearing, line construction, deconstruction of the existing line, potential spread of invasive species, and artificial maintenance of scrub shrub habitat.
<b>Alternative 2</b> Applicant's Proposed Route	Convert 23.94 acres of wetlands to scrub shrub or emergent wetlands.  Rare and unique wetlands including Exceptional Value Wetlands would be affected.	240 acres of vegetation would be cleared in the ROW (129 acres of mature forest)  25.7 acres of access roads outside the ROW	Six communities would be affected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arnott Fen</li> <li>• Delaware River Riparian Corridor</li> <li>• Eastern hemlock forests</li> <li>• Hogback Ridge</li> <li>• Kittatinny Ridge</li> <li>• Van Campens Wetlands</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative 2b</b>	Convert 12.13 acres of wetlands to scrub shrub or emergent wetlands.  Rare and unique wetlands including Exceptional Value Wetlands would be affected.	144 acres of vegetation would be cleared in the ROW (42 acres of mature forest)  26.7 acres of access roads outside the ROW	Six communities would be affected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arnott Fen</li> <li>• Delaware River Riparian Corridor</li> <li>• Eastern hemlock forests</li> <li>• Hogback Ridge</li> <li>• Kittatinny Ridge</li> <li>• Van Campens Wetlands</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative 3</b>	Convert 3.21 acres of wetlands to scrub shrub or emergent wetlands.  No Exceptional Value wetlands would be affected.	Approximately 313 acres of vegetation would be cleared in the ROW (204 acres of mature forest)  100.6 acres of access roads outside the ROW	Three communities would be affected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delaware River Riparian Corridor</li> <li>• Eastern hemlock forests</li> <li>• Kittatinny Ridge</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative 4</b>	Convert 5.8 acres of wetlands to scrub shrub or emergent wetlands.  No Exceptional Value wetlands would be affected.	113 acres of vegetation would be cleared in the ROW (70 acres of mature forest)  55.9 acres of access roads outside the ROW	Four communities would be affected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern hemlock forests</li> <li>• Kittatinny Ridge</li> <li>• Minsi Lake / Bear Swamp</li> <li>• Totts Gap</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative 5</b>	Convert 4.31 acres of wetlands to scrub shrub or emergent wetlands.  No Exceptional Value wetlands would be affected.	74 acres of vegetation would be cleared in the ROW (44 acres of mature forest)  55.3 acres outside the ROW	Three communities would be affected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kittatinny Ridge</li> <li>• Minsi Lake / Bear Swamp</li> <li>• Totts Gap</li> </ul>



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## Comparison of Impacts on Cultural Resources (by Action Alternative)

Alternative	Archeological Resources	Historic Resources	Cultural Landscapes
		Impacts from action alternatives would be caused by the visual impact of larger towers and lines, which would diminish the integrity of the setting, feeling, and association of numerous historic structures.	For cultural landscapes, <b>impacts</b> would cause the character-defining features to be altered and result in measurable changes, thus diminishing the overall integrity of the resources. <b>Substantial impacts</b> would produce noticeable changes or alterations to the character-defining features of the cultural landscapes.
<b>Alternative 2</b> Applicant's Proposed Route	Three known archeological sites would be affected.	Impacts on <b>32</b> identified historic structures.	<b>Five</b> cultural landscapes would be impacted.  <b>Thirteen</b> cultural landscapes would be substantially impacted.
<b>Alternative 2b</b>	Three known archeological sites would be affected.	Impacts on <b>32</b> identified historic structures.	<b>Eight</b> cultural landscapes would be impacted.  <b>Five</b> cultural landscapes would be substantially impacted.
<b>Alternative 3</b>	One known archeological site and one historic house foundation exist along this alternative. The survey is not complete.	Impacts on <b>72</b> identified historic structures.	<b>Three</b> cultural landscapes would be impacted.
<b>Alternative 4</b>	One known archeological site exists along this alternative. The survey is not complete.	Impacts on <b>27</b> identified historic structures.	<b>Three</b> cultural landscapes would be impacted.
<b>Alternative 5</b>	One potential archeological site exists along this alternative. The survey is not complete.	Impacts on <b>27</b> identified historic structures.	<b>Three</b> cultural landscapes would be impacted.



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## Comparison of Impacts on Visitor Experience and Visual Resources (by Action Alternative)

Alternative	Visitor Use and Experience	Visual Resources
<p><b>Alternative 2</b>                      Applicant's Proposed Route</p>	<p>Impacts to visitor use and experience with the most intense impacts at Watergate Recreation Site. Visitors would experience impacts where the transmission line crosses the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.</p>	<p>Changes to visual resources would be most apparent at locations listed for each alternative.</p> <p>Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River</p> <p>Pennsylvania:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fernwood Resort</li> <li>• Pennsylvania Route 209 near Bushkill</li> <li>• McDade Trail</li> <li>• Schoonover house cultural landscape</li> <li>• Community Drive</li> </ul> <p>New Jersey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Millbrook-Flatbrookville Road and Old Mine Road</li> <li>• Van Campens Glen</li> <li>• Hamilton Trail</li> <li>• Pioneer Trail</li> <li>• Watergate Recreation Site</li> <li>• Millbrook Village</li> </ul>
<p><b>Alternative 2b</b></p>	<p>Impacts to visitor use and experience with the most intense impacts at Watergate Recreation Site. Visitors would experience impacts where the transmission line crosses the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.</p>	<p>Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River</p> <p>Pennsylvania:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fernwood Resort,</li> <li>• Pennsylvania Route 209 near Bushkill</li> <li>• McDade Trail</li> <li>• Schoonover house cultural landscape</li> <li>• Community Drive</li> </ul> <p>New Jersey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Millbrook-Flatbrookville Road and Old Mine Road</li> <li>• Van Campens Glen</li> <li>• Hamilton Trail</li> <li>• Pioneer Trail</li> <li>• Watergate Recreation Site</li> <li>• Millbrook Village</li> </ul> <p>There would be two additional nearly 200-foot towers.</p>
<p><b>Alternative 3</b></p>	<p>The 90-degree bend of line would affect views from several vantage points, affecting many visitors. New visual intrusions would be created at Raccoon Ridge along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and would be seen from other vantage points along the trail. Impacts along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail would occur for 2.5 miles.</p>	<p>McDade Trail, Old Mine Road, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River.</p> <p>A condition of issuing the permit would be removal of the 230-kV Bushkill-Kittatinny Line as mitigation. Visual cohesiveness and unity would occur from the restoration of contiguous natural forest cover.</p>
<p><b>Alternative 4</b></p>	<p>Impacts would occur at the Red Dot (Tammany) Trail and Karamac Trail. Impacts along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail would occur for 2.5 miles.</p>	<p>Appalachian National Scenic Trail</p> <p>A condition of issuing the permit would be removal of the 230-kV Bushkill-Kittatinny Line as mitigation. Visual cohesiveness and unity would occur from the restoration of contiguous natural forest cover.</p>
<p><b>Alternative 5</b></p>	<p>Impacts would occur at the Red Dot (Tammany) Trail and Karamac Trail. Impacts along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail would occur for 2.5 miles.</p>	<p>Appalachian National Scenic Trail</p> <p>A condition of issuing the permit would be removal of the 230-kV Bushkill-Kittatinny Line as mitigation. Visual cohesiveness and unity would occur from the restoration of contiguous natural forest cover.</p>

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## YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

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**Your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions are critical as we finalize the EIS and make a decision.**

**Please write down your comments on the provided comment cards.**

**Have any questions?  
Just ask!**

**Stay informed.**

**Please provide your mailing address.**

**You may also share comments online at:  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/dewa>**

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS!  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT.**