



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

FEB 27 2012

D18 (NCR-LRP)
PATH - 17815

Mr. Joseph B. Nelson
Counsel to the PATH Companies
c/o Van Ness Feldman
Attorneys at Law
1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007-3877

Dear Mr. Nelson:

We have reviewed the PATH Companies' December 16, 2011 letter to the Regional Directors of the National Park Service (NPS) National Capital and Northeast Regions requesting an extension to the suspension ("abeyance") of permit processing for the Potomac Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) project. After careful consideration, we cannot continue to hold this project in abeyance. The NPS has decided to deny the request for an extension, and accordingly, to deny the permit without prejudice.

We will close out the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement and the administrative file, including a Notice to Terminate in the Federal Register. Consistent with our record retention schedules under the Federal Records Act and applicable policy and guidance, we will retain appropriate records and data.

If the PATH project status changes and the line is reauthorized, with a clear public need established, you may reapply without bias.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Reidenbach
Regional Director, Northeast Region

Stephen E. Whitesell
Regional Director, National Capital Region