



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WANAMAKER BUILDING, 100 PENN SQUARE EAST
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19107-3390

AUG 03 2010

Regulatory Branch
Application Section II

SUBJECT: CENAP-OP-R 2008-241-30
Project Name: Susquehanna Roseland Power Transmission Line

Mr. John J. Donahue, Superintendent
United States Department of the Interior
Nation Park Service
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Bushkill, Pennsylvania 18324

Dear Mr. Donahue:

This is in further response to your agency's letter dated February 1, 2010, regarding the National Park Service's preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the impacts for the proposed construction of the Susquehanna Roseland Power Transmission Line. The project involves improving an existing 230 kV electric transmission line, and adding a second 500 kV electric transmission line from Susquehanna, Pennsylvania to Roseland, New Jersey.

In a letter dated May 13, 2010, this office indicated that the Corps would be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The determination by this office to be a cooperating agency was based at the time on the District's understanding of the scope of the project, and the extent of potential regulated work that would require authorization from the Corps.

Since the issuance of our May 13 letter, representatives of the District's Regulatory Branch have met with representatives of both the National Park Service (NPS) and the PPL Electric Utilities Corporation to learn more about the scope of the project. Specifically the District has become more aware of the scope of the project that will be reviewed by both the NPS and the Corps, and the extent of regulated work that will require authorization from the Corps. Preliminarily the District has determined that regulated work may qualify for authorization through applicable Department of the Army (DA) nationwide permits, or Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit 3. Both of these are DA general permit processes where an applicable NEPA document has already been prepared, and do not require the Corps to prepare a project specific NEPA document.

Based upon our preliminary finding regarding permitting requirements for the project and the potential applicability of general permits to authorize regulated activities associated with the project, the District has determined that its continuing role as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS is no longer necessary. The District remains willing to assist the NPS in the identification and delineation of wetlands and waters within the three National Park Service units in Pennsylvania and New Jersey that may be impacted by the project, and would require authorization from the Corps.

A copy of this letter is being furnished to Ms. Pamela Underhill, Superintendant of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail so that she is aware of the District's determination. Should you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Wayne Poppich at (570) 842-1044, or write to the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Cianfrani', is written over the typed name and title.

Frank J. Cianfrani
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Copies Furnished:

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (Pamela Underhill, Superintendant)
CENAP-OP-RG (Poppich)