



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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| DATE: | Nov. 2, 2007 |
| ATTN: | |
| FROM: | Powell, Audrey |
| SUBJECT: | application for rehearing |

Note:

Audrey P. Powell
Policy Director to
H. William DeWeese
THE MAJORITY LEADER
PA House of Representatives
110 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
717.783.3797

BILL DeWEESE
MAJORITY LEADER



110 MAIN CAPITOL
PO BOX 202050
HARRISBURG PA 17120-2050

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

November 2, 2007

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
OE-20
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Attn: Docket No. 2007-OE-01
Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor

Dear Sir or Madame,

In my capacity as the Majority Leader of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the duly elected State Legislator for the 50th Legislative District, I submit this letter respectfully requesting a rehearing of the United States Department of Energy's (DOE) final designation of the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor as a national interest electric transmission corridor or NIETC.

I respectfully assert that the need for a rehearing is of immense importance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, its people, and political subdivisions. This assertion is based on the fact that (1) the DOE convened only one public meeting in Pennsylvania and, thereby, failed to provide adequate opportunity for a majority of people and public officials living in or near the NIETC the opportunity to be heard; and (2) the DOE inadvertently omitted Carbon and Cumberland Counties in the narrative of the May 7, 2007, Federal Register public notice of counties and cities included in the draft Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor. This omission was and continues to be a public disservice to the people, business owners, and public officials of those counties who had concluded that since Carbon and Cumberland were not listed in the official notice, their homes and businesses were outside the NIETC boundaries and safe from the possibility of prospective and feared condemnation. The omission of Carbon and Cumberland Counties on the draft Mid-Atlantic Area NIETC county list effectively negated any opportunity for people and public officials of said counties to participate in these proceedings.

Office of Electric Delivery and Energy Reliability

page 2

As revealed in my June 13, 2007, testimony at the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania public meeting, I have long and actively opposed § 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and, thereby, the designation of the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor as a NIETC. The reasons for my opposition to the NIETC designation, which will integrate 52 instead of 50 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties into a massive corridor encompassing most of Pennsylvania and considerable landmass in seven other States, were enumerated in my June 13 testimony. Nevertheless, the failure of the DOE to actively seek public comment in all regions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other affected States in the Mid-Atlantic robbed people of the opportunity to be heard regardless of whether they support or oppose the corridor designation. Such failure is not in the public interest and, coupled with the omission of Carbon and Cumberland Counties on the published list of NIETC counties, is just cause for rehearing.

Although I understand and recognize the importance of positioning the United States to meet its present and future energy needs, I question the rationale of any policy that proposes to cluster unprotected energy resources and transmission facilities in a corridor to facilitate long-distance transportation of electricity to vital urban centers, financial centers, and military installations with no back-up if such resources and facilities would be fatally compromised or security breached. I question the prudence of such a public policy and whether it is or would be in the best interest of the people, NIETC States, and homeland security. Consequently, I respectfully request a rehearing of this matter.

Respectfully,



Bill DeWeese
Majority Leader
50th Legislative District