

Application for Rehearing of Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor-  
Docket No. 2007-OE-01

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My comments are longer than my previous application, because I believe that the issue of herbicides need to be further expressed. I am gravely concerned about the use of herbicides 2 4D, trilogly, glyphosate, picloram, fosamine, and Imazapyr, that are likely to be used to maintain the National Corridors if new power lines are approved. People are conditioned to think that if there is something wrong with a chemical that the government will put it right. The government *may* eventually put it right with the herbicides used to treat the corridors. After all, they did with DDT *after 25 years* of birds having their nervous system poisoned. And they finally did with Thalidomide after *hundreds* of deformed children were born. Surely, *after* hundreds more children have died and wildlife and insects dropping dead at high rates if a power line goes through, the government may then stop the spraying of toxic chemicals.

We, the public, all know what happens when we mess with nature. Every gardener knows that the right soil can make all the difference between sparse, sickly plants and thriving abundant crops. Every individual knows that drinking water is the most precious resource, essential in good health.

I'm sure you have heard that the connection between all living things is called the web of life. I believe that what affects me, ultimately affects you, and every other man, woman, child, and animal on earth. Is it worth the money (yes, I believe it's all about the money) to expose people and animals to what may later be found to harm or kill many innocent people?

In addition to this, I want to comment on the miles of trees that would be leveled for any company seeking approval of high-power voltage lines (like the power companies that want to put in the so called Allegheny "Trail"- I'm sure you're familiar); as when I first wrote to you I hadn't fully taken in the seriousness of this matter and now that I have I won't pass up the opportunity to express my thoughts and remind you of what is going to happen if it the proposed 500kv line is approved. I might also note the huge negative impact this is going to have on global warming.

These forests are not just green things that will stand in the way; they are a collection of thousands of various plants, animals, and insects. You cannot forget this truth, just as you cannot forget the benefits and values of trees, that they provide us with two of life's essentials, food and oxygen, and that they give us, shelter, medicine, tools, privacy, reduce glare and reflection, are habitats for wildlife, improve air quality, conserve water,

preserve soil, accent landscape, block unwanted views, slow water run-off, and moderate the climate. Also, air-conditioning costs are lower in a tree-shaded home and heating costs are reduced when a home has a windbreak. And let's face it, we like trees around us because they make life more pleasant.

For what it's worth, I will tell you how they make my life pleasant (and I truly hope you take the time to read this). After dinner, an apple pie made from the apples I picked from a tree in my yard is a real treat. When my husband discarded an old tire, I decided it would make for a perfect tree swing for my children, and then hung it from a great white pine. Trees were the places my children, now 16 and 18, would often hide behind when playing hide and seek. Many a joyous face my children had when they rushed into the kitchen to show me a spent, empty birdhouse they had found in a tree, a tree they had climbed to the top of. With their little hands they painted a no-girls-allowed sign on worn wood and pounded it to their rough-looking tree house. When they were younger they waited for leaves to fall from the maple in our backyard so we could rake them and they could jump in them; today, I use the leaves for compost in my garden. My husband cuts fallen trees to help heat our home. My mother's day gift, a hammock, hangs from two crab apple trees, and this is where I enjoy many evenings looking up through their lacey trees at the blue sky. On my daily walk to the top of my hill where I take in the countryside, I pass the blue spruce tree approximately 11 ft tall, I had planted in memory of my sister who died 9 years ago. At the end of my walk, I seek the shade of a tree, as does my dog, to cool down. Several cedar trees slow the wind that comes off our hill, making it nice to sit outside and not have to be wind beaten or having to chase lawn furniture. I could go on with this list, but I'm sure you get the picture.

I only tell you these things that you're already aware of, not because I'm a tree hugger, but because I think that the importance of trees is easily forgotten, and because I worry that these trees may not be thought of as a critical enough issue to you.

I have heard that 90% of all species, living on land, make their homes in trees or forests. If this is true, and humans continue to level trees at significant levels for power lines many of these species will eventually die. What will happen when insects that pollinate our crops and kill other insects that destroy our crops, have declined, or worse, have gone extinct? Do we need someone to tell us when it's time to stop killing trees in substantial numbers? Can't we see the forest for the trees ourselves? I'm not a tree expert, but I know that for every tree we remove from mother earth, its stored carbon is released back in to the atmosphere. That's a lot of carbon that would be released with these trees.

We all know what happens when we tamper drastically with the natural order of things. The ravaging of protective timber, is known to cause runoffs following storms. Many houses will be downhill to new power lines and will have to deal with this excess water. Who will pay for the damage?

Perhaps when you are done reading this you might need an aspirin; if you do,

remember that it came from the bark of a willow tree. And if you happen to wake to a pancake breakfast, remember that the syrup came from the sap of a maple tree.

These magnificent natural green "towers" that protect us from the sun, wind, and rain, would not longer exist if *any* power line is approved within the national corridors.

I have a deep, incredible sadness because I believe that the power that is behind these trees is overlooked here. I urge you to reconsider your decision for the sake of the land and people and animals.

If the problem of future power outages is real (which it is not where I live), then I believe that everything, *everything* should be done to see that existing lines are instead improved and that conservation is *intensely* promoted. You are going against everything that should be done concerning global warming if even a single proposed power line is approved. May you keep this in mind in your future decisions and do what is best for man and environment.

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