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Allegheny Power's true colors

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I'm sure that many Gazette readers have seen the TV ads for the Allegheny Power PATH project, the 765-kilovolt transmission line being built from West Virginia to Frederick County ending in a massive substation to be located on a 152-acre farm off Bartholows Road.

This proposed site is surrounded by 1,200 homes, and the substation will have a footprint of about 2,200 feet by 800 feet (30 football fields). It's appalling that Allegheny would even consider building this huge industrial facility in the middle of all these homes.

The TV ads paint a rosy picture of previous Allegheny Power projects and emphasize the commitment of Allegheny working with residents to address concerns and minimize any impact to the community.

Don't believe these ads for a second.

I live in one of the homes that surround this proposed site, and to date Allegheny has not contacted me or any other resident to address our concerns. In recent filings to the Maryland Public Service Commission (case No. 9198), Allegheny has requested a motion for an expedited decision on their application to get approval to start construction of the transmission line and substation.

In these filings they argue that the commission, not Frederick County, should have ultimate authority on deciding the location of the substation. Furthermore, they argue that if the commission does not grant them approval, Allegheny reserves the right to go to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to get authorization for what they want.

So instead of being willing to work with the local community as their TV ads suggest, it is clear from Allegheny's actions that their position is: It's Allegheny's way or the highway.

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