

**FrederickNewsPost.com****Wrong PATH**

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The electric power substation near Mount Airy was rejected by the Planning Commission two weeks ago. The power companies were to apply to the Board of Zoning Appeals for special exception zoning on Wednesday. The substation is only part of the PATH story. There are other factors about the proposed power line that Frederick County residents should consider:

The project is of no benefit to the people of Maryland. In fact, it is to our detriment because we will have to pay for its construction.

The power companies threaten us with blackouts if we do not bow to their desire to build the PATH. It is very similar to what Enron did to California in early 2001.

There are cheaper, easier and safer ways to provide us with electric power:

(1) Stop building infrastructure to accommodate peak demand. We can't increase consumption forever, and this is a good place to stop building and start being smart in consumption.

(2) "Smart grid" technology will encourage better use of electricity by lowering the peak demand through smart metering and variable charges for power.

(3) Encourage power companies to build natural-gas-fired generators closer to the point of consumption. The power lost in transmission will be saved, and further decreases in natural gas prices are expected in coming years. Gas-fired plants are cheaper to build than coal-fired ones, burn much cleaner, and can be turned on and off as demand changes.

ELLIS BURRUSS, candidate for Frederick County commissioner

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