

**FrederickNewsPost.com****Commissioners support BOA on substation decision; FERC receives formal complaint**

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The new Board of Frederick County Commissioners has cemented its opposition to a giant electricity substation near Mount Airy.

Commissioners voted unanimously to send a letter to the Maryland Public Service Commission supporting decisions by the Frederick County Planning Commission and Frederick County Board of Appeals against the proposed substation on Bartholows Road.

The commissioners said in a prepared statement that Frederick County, not the PSC, has final say on siting the substation.

"We take our land use decisions seriously and urge the Public Service Commission to uphold our responsibilities for such proposed substations," Commissioners President Blaine Young said.

The proposed Kemptown substation "may not be built in its proposed location," the statement said.

Residents file complaint

Two West Virginia residents have filed a formal complaint with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission against the utilities behind the Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline.

In a prepared statement, Keryn Newman of Shepherdstown and Alison Haverty of Chloe said they filed the complaint on Friday. The two had, in November, filed a preliminary complaint with Allegheny Energy and American Electric Power, but it was not answered to their satisfaction, according to the statement released Tuesday.

PATH is a 275-mile, \$2.1 billion project that would place a power line across three states, ending at a proposed substation near Mount Airy.

Newman and Haverty said they had reviewed 2009 project costs by the companies that "revealed a pattern of misleading marketing efforts using funds inappropriately charged to ratepayers and a range of accounting efforts."

The formal complaint asks FERC to begin a broader investigation. Todd Meyers, spokesman for Allegheny Energy, said Tuesday by e-mail that the company would review the filing and respond appropriately.

Newman and Haverty allege the PATH companies wrongly recovered a \$2 million advertising campaign and more than \$1 million in creation and management of front groups, and a campaign inappropriately presented as public education.

The complaint can be viewed on the FERC website as docket ER08-386-000. According to the statement, the utilities have 20 days from last Friday to answer the complaint.

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