

PATH project application filed with Maryland PSC

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By [Ed Waters Jr.](#)

Allegheny Power and American Electric Power filed in Maryland and Virginia on Tuesday for the PATH project.

The Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline is a 300-mile, \$1.8 billion project that will run from near Charleston, W.Va., to near Kempton, in southern Frederick County. The utility companies filed for the project in West Virginia last Friday.

The companies also revealed the proposed route for the project. The 765-kilovolt line will cover about 20 miles in Maryland.

At last Friday's announcement, Allegheny Power representatives said the line would follow existing corridors except for a two-mile area near Urbana to avoid Little Bennett Creek.

Todd Meyers, manager of external communications for Allegheny Power, said he expects the Maryland Public Service Commission to take about a year to make a decision on the proposed route. The commission will review all relevant information and hear public input on the proposal.

The utility company held 24 open houses in three states on the proposal, which at that time included several potential alternative routes. Michael Gogol, consulting engineer for PATH, said Allegheny Power representatives spent a year and a half researching possible routes, using satellite maps and driving around the areas.

A number of groups, including the Sierra Club and Sugarloaf Conservancy, expressed concern about the project from potential routes to environmental and quality-of-life impacts. The Sugarloaf Conservancy has advocated underground placement of some of the PATH line, but Allegheny Power representatives have said it is not a viable alternative to overhead lines.

Michael Hosier is the general manager for transmission projects for Allegheny Power. He said he expects construction to begin in late 2010 and be completed by 2014.

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News-Post map by Carolyn Ehn

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DETAILS

- What: PATH electric power line
- Contact: pathtransmission.com