

## **Allegheny should do the right thing**

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People do not buy acreage in southern Frederick County to have 130-foot towers with high-voltage power lines crackling in their yard. Evidence suggests that living near power lines may have a detrimental effect on health, increasing the risk of various diseases including leukemia.

Allegheny Energy's proposed PATH project to build high-voltage transmission lines across southern Frederick County would cut a 200-foot-wide trail through 46 miles of Frederick County, causing devastation of property values, forests, wildlife habitat and the quality of life we all enjoy.

The well-proven technology of burying power lines underground only requires a 20-foot right of way and thus is much more ecologically friendly. Underground lines can actually carry more power, eliminate the risk of power outages due to wind and ice damage, and likely reduce health risks since the level of the electromagnetic field underground is significantly reduced.

Allegheny Power continues to forge ahead with plans for their outdated and potentially hazardous technology. There is no immediate need for these lines, so what's the rush? Allegheny Power needs to do the right thing and explore underground technology, a safer and more innovative approach.

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