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No PATH to understanding

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There has not been much in the press about Allegheny's Potomac Appalachian Transmission Highline, however the company is still stubbornly determined to get it passed. Nov. 2, Allegheny's PATH Education and Awareness Team director, Russell W. Frisby, was invited by Friends of Frederick County to speak and field questions. I went to see what he had to say.

Frisby gave a presentation, covering the "need" Allegheny claims and what a crisis it will be if PATH is not built. He mentioned a helicopter ride he took along the three-state route, ending at the Kemptown Substation site off Bartholows Road in Mount Airy. He said with a straight face that he was happy to see that it "avoided highly populated areas."

To be in that category, you must have to be New York City, but the more than 1,200 homes in the radius of the substation site are indeed there whether or not Allegheny acknowledges this fact. There are also the many other lives, schools, homes and land all along the rest of the route line.

Later, he took questions, but provided no answers. He claimed to not know the substation size and said other sites were considered, but didn't know where. As to if only 15 percent was the amount of electricity from PATH that would go to Maryland, Frisby said it was incorrect, but had no correct answer. He was "unfamiliar" with health studies mentioned. To other questions, he said we would have to ask the technical staff at Allegheny. This has already been done by many, with no results. In short, Frisby's attitude was one of "tough luck." He attempted to tell us that any future issues with well water, security, etc. would be addressed by the EPA and other government entities. Yeah, that's comforting.

So was any "education" or "awareness" provided? No. It was more like "smoke" and "mirrors." The impassioned citizenry deserve better than the lack of transparency and accountability, to use the current buzz words, that they continue to get from Allegheny. If there is nothing to hide, then why are there still no answers?

SUSAN DENNY

Mount Airy

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