

# PRESS RELEASE: August 22, 2009



## Contact Information:

Douglas Kaplan, President, Sugarloaf Conservancy  
[Doug.Kaplan@SugarloafConservancy.org](mailto:Doug.Kaplan@SugarloafConservancy.org)  
(301) 874 -0584

## Sugarloaf Conservancy Opposes the Construction of the PATH Project

The Allegheny Energy's proposed 765 kV transmission line would be enormous in both the size of its towers and the power transmitted through the line compared to existing transmission lines currently located in Frederick County, Maryland. None of the power will be available to Frederick County and only 14% will be used anywhere in Maryland.

### Sugarloaf Conservancy's Opposition to PATH is Based On:

**Lack of Need:** Sugarloaf Conservancy is opposing this project, as there is **no longer a need** due in part to the downturn in the economy and a reduction in demand. PJM in 2007 stated that there would be a critical need for PATH when energy usage increased by 10%. PJM's data shows a decrease in the need for energy of 7.1% since 2007. Latest US Department of Energy forecast shows that a 10% increase in energy usage (since 2007) would not occur until 2025. Our position is supported by ten east coast governors, including Governor O'Malley, who have written a letter to members of Congress opposing the construction of transmission lines that would bring power from the mid-west as it is counter productive to their efforts to create local, renewable sources of power generation.

**Substation:** PATH would require the construction of a huge substation in the center of residential neighborhoods located in Mount Airy, Maryland. An incident such as a fire, act of terrorism or a tornado could cause well water to be contaminated and thus, cause irreparable harm to residents.

**EMF (Electromagnetic Fields):** High Voltage transmission lines emit harmful EMF radiation. Studies have shown a relationship between living near these lines and dying from Leukemia and Alzheimer's. All EMF studies have been on voltages substantially below 765kV and have not addressed the effects at this voltage or the paralleling of high voltage lines as planned by PATH.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HVDC Underground Technology:** Sugarloaf Conservancy continues to supports the use of HVDC underground technology for long distance transmission lines ONLY where a need for a transmission line can be shown.

**Sugarloaf Conservancy** was formed to protect and enhance the quality of life in Frederick County by education on issues related to wetlands, streams, meadows, rivers, forests, view sheds, conservation, restoration, and preservation. Currently our focus is opposing the overhead PATH high voltage power lines. For more information, go to [www.sugarloafconservancy.org](http://www.sugarloafconservancy.org) or [www.nomoretowers.org](http://www.nomoretowers.org).