

## Introduction

The Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) Project is a proposed high-voltage interstate transmission line that will traverse West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland, crossing state lines four times to establish long-term, reliable operation of the regional electric transmission grid. It will include a new Kemptown Substation in Frederick County, Maryland, a new Welton Spring Substation in Hardy County, West Virginia, and modifications to the existing Amos Substation in Putnam County, West Virginia. Specifically, PATH will consist of a single 765 kV line that will begin at the John Amos Substation, pass through the Welton Spring Substation, and end at the Kemptown Substation. The line will be approximately 276 miles in length, with approximately 225 miles in West Virginia, 31 miles in Virginia, and 20 miles in Maryland. PATH is currently projected to cost approximately \$2.1 billion.

An application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity was filed with the Maryland Public Service Commission on December 21, 2009 and supplemented on July 16, 2010. Such application has been accepted for filing by the Maryland Public Service Commission.

This Application for a Special Exception is for the Kemptown Substation (referred to hereafter as the "Substation"), which is the eastern terminus of PATH and its interconnection with two 500 kV transmission lines presently located at the site of the proposed Substation. The Substation's role in PATH is essential, for it will step down and transform voltage from 765 kV to 500 kV, thereby enabling the transmission of power to the existing 500 kV network in the region. No power will be generated at the Substation for distribution on the transmission network. However, a 750 kW generator will be located at the Substation solely for emergency 120/208 volt backup station service power. In the event of a power failure on the local distribution system, the generator will provide operating station service power to the Substation.

The proposed Substation site, which is comprised of three parcels totaling 170.153 acres, is located three miles southeast of New Market, Maryland, and west of Bartholows Road. This location was chosen due to its proximity to the junction of the two existing 500 kV transmission lines which will connect to the Substation. Other potential locations were rejected because of their distance from these existing lines. The increased distance to any other potential location would necessitate the construction and routing of four additional 500 kV lines to connect with the existing lines. As such, the Applicant believes the selected location is the best alternative for maintaining the reliable operation of the regional electric transmission grid.

Only 7.58 acres of the 26.92 acres of forest will be disturbed on the proposed Substation site. Moreover, although there are two tributaries of the Bush Creek watershed and areas of wetlands associated with the ephemeral and perennial streams located on the site, no wetlands will be disturbed by the proposed Substation.

The proposed Substation will have a gravel access road starting from an existing driveway and continuing approximately 1,050 feet to the Substation fence. It will be an

unmanned facility visited by one or two vehicles approximately four to five times a month. The proposed Substation pad is 760 feet by 2,450 feet and will be surrounded by a 6 foot high chain link fence topped with barbed wire. The total area of site disturbance is estimated as 73 acres, which includes four areas for stormwater management and three earthen berms for screening that will be heavily landscaped.

The proposed Substation equipment will be constructed of tubular galvanized steel. The majority of the facilities within the Substation will generally vary between 55 feet and 80 feet in height, although a few poles connecting to the single 765 kV line may reach 175 feet, and a few poles connecting to the 500 kV line may only reach 30 feet. All of the proposed facilities are shown on various drawings and exhibits associated with this Application.