

## FrederickNewsPost.com

### Large turnout expected to oppose substation at zoning meeting

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By [Ed Waters Jr.](#)

Members of the Frederick County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a hearing today on an electric substation planned near Mount Airy.

Known as the Kemptown substation, it is proposed at a 150-acre site off Bartholow's Road, and would be the largest substation ever built by Allegheny Power, according to Jim Haney, vice president of the utility company.

The substation is part of the Potomac Appalachian Transmission Highline, a \$2.1 billion, 275-mile transmission line that crosses three states. The project is a joint effort by Allegheny Energy and American Electric Power.

The meeting will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 11 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St.

Residents of the area around the proposed site have voiced opposition, many forming Citizens Against the Kemptown Electric Substation.

At an open house held by Allegheny Energy last week, a large crowd opposed to the project attended and expressed their views to representatives of the utility company, PJM, which oversees electric needs in the region, and Truescape, a company that produced a video on the proposed station.

That video, which uses computer enhancement, was shown initially to the media two weeks ago. The New Zealand-based firm that created it uses photos of the landscape to show what the view would look like with the substation in place.

Haney and other utility company executives said the substation's location was chosen because it is near the meeting point of electric lines of Allegheny Power, Potomac Electric Power Co. and Constellation Energy.

Allegheny Energy said the transmission line, starting in West Virginia, crossing Virginia and about 20 miles in Maryland, is needed to ensure the power grid in the region will be prepared to meet future needs and avoid blackouts.

CAKES has opposed the substation because of visual, noise and environmental impacts, safety issues, and loss in property values for surrounding homes.

Sugarloaf Conservancy, another community group, was initially formed to urge Allegheny Energy to put the transmission line underground or seek alternatives to PATH.

The group expanded its opposition to include the substation, saying the decline in the economy and less energy use means there is no need for PATH within the time frame presented by Allegheny Energy.

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#### AT A GLANCE

WHAT: Meeting on Kemptown Electric substation.

WHEN: 1 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 11 p.m. today.

WHERE: Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St., first-floor meeting room.

#### ON THE WEB

[frederickcountymd.gov](http://frederickcountymd.gov)

[pathtransmission.com](http://pathtransmission.com)

[nokemptownsubstation.org](http://nokemptownsubstation.org)

[www.sugarloafconservancy.org](http://www.sugarloafconservancy.org)