

**For Immediate Release  
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## **WV Citizen Action Group objects to PATH power line proposal at PSC Public Hearing**

Charleston, WV- At today's public hearing on the proposed PATH power line project at the WV Cultural Center, WV Citizen Action Executive Director, Gary Zuckett made the following comments to the WV Public Service Commission:

"This project is proposed to fix projected shortages and transmission line congestion problems projected to occur in the Mid-Atlantic Region. In the PATH application the Mid Atlantic area is described as:

'...the Mid-Atlantic area consists of the area along the Atlantic seaboard from the District of Columbia to Northern New Jersey including the metropolitan areas of Washington, Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia and Newark. This area encompasses the states of New Jersey and Delaware, the District of Columbia and portions of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.'

**We don't see the state of West Virginia mentioned in this study except to again be used to export energy for the East Coast and be forced to pay for such a dubious privilege."**

"This planning analysis did not consider increasing capacity closer to the areas where the growth in demand creates these projected deficiencies. PJM basically gets paid for the amount of power flowing through the regional grid system. This creates a conflict with a bias against an increase in efficiency and conservation measures."

"The WV PSC has just ruled to require our biggest in-state electric utility, AEP, to submit a comprehensive plan to maximize DSM/EE (demand side management/ electrical efficiency). Yet now, on the other hand **the PSC is being asked to have WV rate-payers subsidize what in essence is a big TWO BILLION dollar extension cord to supply energy to the East. This is totally unfair to WV rate payers and does not benefit them in any way.**"

"The expected increase in generation from the John Amos Plant is not a consideration in the legal points that will be considered by The WV PSC in issuance of a "Certificate of Necessity and Convenience", Kanawha and Putnam counties are non-compliant with respect to measured particulate matter. Mercury deposition across the state is already unacceptable."

"Approving the PATH power line eliminates or reduces the necessity and removes the incentive for innovative solutions regarding conservation, efficiency and innovation. **The paradigm of centralized power generation and long distance distribution may end up being a "dinosaur" in future years as fossil fuels become more expensive. With proper incentives, the emerging micro-grid may decentralize power generation to a sufficient degree to make these monster power lines a relic of the past.**"

"It is crucial for the United States to have a stable and reliable electrical supply system. However, we do not believe that PATH will contribute positively in that regard. We think, to quote electrical engineer George C. Loehr, who has more than 45 years of experience in the electrical power industry, that this project will '...subsidize remote generators, discriminate against local and distributed generation and demand side resources, force many customers to pay for someone else's benefits, increase the likelihood of blackouts, and make our grids more vulnerable to terrorist attack.' See George C. Loehr's testimony before the *Hearings of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee*, July 31, 2008."

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