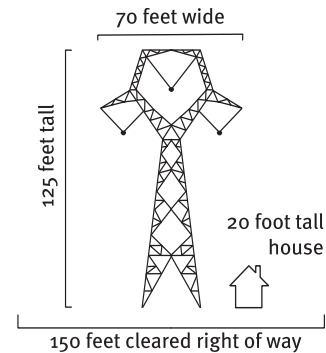




Stop the Transmission Line!

Allegheny Power and Dominion Virginia Power have announced plans for a 500-kilo volt extra high voltage transmission line that would begin in Southern Pennsylvania, cross through West Virginia and terminate in Northern Virginia. Allegheny Power calls the proposed line the “Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line (TrAIL)”.

A typical 500-kV line has towers that range in height from 70 to 175 feet; with individual tower height dependant on topography (flat areas allow for lower towers, mountainous regions require higher towers). According to Dominion and Allegheny, the typical height of a 500-kV line is 125 feet and the typical right of way is 150 feet wide.



The Capon Valley Coalition (caponvalleycoalition.wordpress.com), a diverse group of residents, businesses and land owners in Hampshire and Hardy County West Virginia, opposes the proposed line for the following reasons:

Questionable Need: Allegheny and Dominion say the massive power lines are needed to prevent blackouts in Northern Virginia during times of peak demand. However, they are unwilling to submit their data and assumptions for independent review and verification.

Alternatives Not Explored: Allegheny says that alternative approaches such as upgrading existing lines, demand side management, and conservation strategies will not be sufficient to meet projected needs. However, they have not developed and implemented systems to test these approaches so how could they possibly know that these alternatives will not work.

Damage to the Economy: The natural environment and beauty of eastern West Virginia are cornerstones of the region’s economy. Tourism, vacation homes, and recreation facilities provide an ever-expanding source of revenue to state and local economies. The massive power lines proposed for the region will abruptly halt these sources of economic growth. Would you like to vacation near a power line?

Burying Lines Not Considered: Allegheny says it is too costly to bury transmission lines despite the fact that Allegheny now enjoys record profits and the proposed lines will provide them with a new means to sell energy to the entire east coast.

Destruction of Personal Property: Property values fall sharply across an entire region whenever power lines such as the ones proposed come to an area. This occurs because 500-kilo-volt lines can be seen for miles around. Allegheny will offer only partial reimbursement to owners of land where lines cross and they will offer nothing to owners who live nearby within plain view of these massive eyesores.

Harm to History, Culture & Environment: The proposed lines will slice through sensitive environmental areas and fragile ecosystems in addition to countless historic sites, scenic farms, hunting preserves, and pristine recreational areas cherished by West Virginians.