

Kelly Rossiter, AICP
Rivers Program Specialist
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Recreation and Conservation
400 Market St, 5th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

May 3, 2017

RE: Birdsboro Power LLC Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Application

Dear Ms. Rossiter,

I am writing to ask that you reject the 105 permit Birdsboro Power LLC is seeking for the transmission lines associated with its proposed power plant.

The 105 application describes the project this way:

The largest impact of the electric transmission line project and those like it is to the existing aesthetic of the project area. The electric line and poles will be easily seen from a long distance and somewhat accentuated by required deforestation of the right-of-way. Current plans propose approximately 9.4 acres of permanent floodway impact, mostly due to deforestation within the right-of-way. These impacts will not increase the flood risk in the vicinity of the project or degrade water quality. Once trees are cleared and construction is complete, small trees and shrubs will be permitted to re-establish in the ROW. Vegetative maintenance of the ROW will be conducted via mechanical means and herbicide usage is not anticipated. An influx of invasive species in the ROW presents another risk of impact to the riparian forest.

The Schuylkill was the first designated scenic river in Pennsylvania. Monopoles described as being 110' to 140' tall and transmission lines will detract significantly from the aesthetic on which the designation is based that is described on DCNR's website as follows:

Scenic rivers shall be free-flowing and capable of, or under restoration, to support water-cased recreation, fish and aquatic life. The view from the river or its banks shall be predominately wild, but may reveal some pastoral countryside. The segment may be intermittently accessible by road.

The view of the monopoles and transmission lines would be neither wild nor pastoral should you approve this project. To do so would appear to be a violation of your responsibilities to protect special places and ensure that designations created toward that end are not diminished for the sake of enabling polluting industries.

Please reject Birdsboro Power LLC's application for the Chapter 105 permit. If you must approve it, do it with the condition that the lines are laid underground.

Respectfully,



Karen Feridun
Founder, Berks Gas Truth
260 East Main Street
Kutztown, PA 19530