

**The New Jersey Highlands Council Hearing
Susquehanna-Roseland Project
June 25, 2009
Statement of Paul A. Boudreau
President, Morris County Chamber of Commerce**

Good afternoon my name is Paul Boudreau and I am President of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce. I would like to thank the Council for hosting this meeting and giving me and others the opportunity to join you to discuss the Susquehanna-Roseland project.

The Morris County Chamber of Commerce supports PSE&G's proposal to upgrade the electric transmission line that runs between Susquehanna, PA and Roseland, NJ. I would like to focus my comments on reliability, costs, safety, economic stimulus and the environment.

Reliability

This is a necessary project to ensure that we have a reliable supply of electricity in the future.

Without reliability our economy doesn't work. Whether you are for nuclear, wind generation or clean coal technology we will need a more robust transmission network in the future.

PJM Interconnection, the largest grid and electricity market operator in the world, is empowered by the federal government to manage our grid. They have concluded that New Jersey risks brownouts and blackouts by 2012 unless this line is upgraded.

Businesses need a reliable power supply to ensure product quality, productivity and service to their customers.

They are fighting on many fronts in our state to remain competitive and a potentially unreliable power supply is not something we should be adding to their list of challenges. The new line will relieve congestion on the grid and protect against failures in the overall system.

Safety

The current line was built in 1931.

The electricity needs of our modern world are placing dangerous strain on the system as we overload circuits and reduce the safety of transmission lines.

This results in potential problems in our communities where the lines exist and inefficiencies for consumers when quality of service deteriorates.

We are not experts on electric and magnetic fields. We would note that scientific studies by the World Health Organization and others fail to establish a link between EMF and illness or disease.

Environment

Our organization has paid close attention to this project over the last six months. It is our view that PSE&G has worked very hard to respond to the concerns of citizens and ensure that the Project is consistent with the goals of the Highlands Act.

The company's CMP Plan will reduce the environmental impacts associated with the project. They have changed portions of the design and reduced the environmental footprint of the project by relocation a switching station from Jefferson to Hopatcong.

This results in a 70% reduction in impacts to upland forests and eliminates the need for 13 towers. The CMP includes extensive restoration plans for impacted streams, precautions for birds and other species and protection of historic archeological resources.

Their financial payment to mitigate impacts in the Highlands will assist the Council in purchasing critical lands and support the effort to ensure that we reach clean water goals.

In summary, the Morris County Chamber of Commerce believes that the current transmission line cannot adequately serve the public and our businesses in the future. The upgraded line would deliver reliability, safety,

cost predictability and economic stimulus to our state. We urge your support for the project.