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Town of New Windsor Response to the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project

The Town of New Windsor is addressing the proposed PSEG power line project which includes a route that goes across our main water line right-of-way. In the past few years, the Town has experienced several major breaks and other issues that were handled instantly allowing for water to be restored as soon as possible. If this power line is approved, the Town may be required to notify the power entity overseeing the project of a water line break. Depending on the day of the week or time of day, this could take an unacceptably long amount of time. This could result in a loss of water and water pressure that our citizen's health and safety depend on.

The Town opposes the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) and will do everything within its authority to ensure this project will not affect our Town or our residents. This project does not benefit our citizens or the citizens of Carroll County and is primarily being built to meet the electricity load growth of data center development in northern Virginia. Moreover, it infringes on the property rights of our friends and neighbors, a concern that cannot be overlooked. Our community is blessed with a vibrant agricultural heritage and a unique charm that must be preserved for future generations. The proposed project poses a risk to our local environment and the scenic beauty that makes our community special. We must take a stand to protect what makes New Windsor a great place to live.

We recommend PSEG to consider a combined cycle power plant (CCPP) which uses both gas and steam turbines to produce electricity. In a combined cycle setup, natural gas is burned to power a gas turbine, and the resulting waste heat is used to produce steam, which drives a steam turbine. This two-stage process can achieve efficiencies of over 60%, reducing fuel consumption and emissions per megawatt of electricity generated. CCPPs are flexible, provide reliable baseload and peak power, and are increasingly popular for cleaner, high-efficiency energy production in the power sector, can be quickly built on-site and customized to size to meet the needs of a data center.

We know that the voices of Carroll County are being heard and need to continue to be heard. While the comment window with PSEG has closed, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) has opened a dedicated email for collecting comments from the community. If the developer files an application and the Commission opens a case, those comments will be added to the public comments file so the Commission has the benefit of the public's views. The email address to leave comments for the PSC is piedmontcomments.psc@maryland.gov. We encourage you to share your thoughts with the PSC!

The Town, along with our State Legislators, County Commissioners, and other organizations will continue to fight the project and ensure that people have the opportunity to make their voices heard. Let's continue to work together to protect the future of New Windsor and Carroll County and preserve its natural beauty for generations to come.

Neal C. Roop
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