

Aaron Gillespie, Charleston, WV.
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Commissioners:

The West Virginia Division of Highways ("WVDOH") is offering the following comments in response to the permit application for Big Run Pump Storage Hydro Project (P-14489) by FreedomWorks, LLC ("Applicant").

The Applicant (in its permit application) states there will be "no impacts" to the environment. WVDOH has conducted extensive environmental investigation in the area of Applicant's proposed project and has found a number of sensitive resources (as well as highly erosive soils) between the Cheat River and Big Run (Upper Reservoir) in particular. In addition, it has been determined that both Mill Run and Slip Hill Mill Run contain native brook trout.

This proposed project is located within the corridor of the Parsons to Davis section of Appalachian Corridor H Highway Project, specifically in the area of the Refined Original Preferred Alternative (ROPA). The ROPA was originally developed in 2002 and modified, with considerable agency coordination and community participation, in 2003. A Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement was approved for the ROPA by the Federal Highway Administration on February 2, 2007, but a Record of Decision has not been approved. Recent studies have included research on the geology and past coal mining in the project area, wetland and stream surveys, as well as rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal surveys. These surveys have identified Federally endangered bats in the area, Northern flying squirrel habitat, National Forest Regional Sensitive Species habitat, and historic industrial mining areas. The corridor was refined to avoid or minimize impacts to these resources, see attached map (attached with original) which also shows environmental features in relation to both the Big Run Pump Storage Hydro Project Elements and Corridor H study alignments.

Yours very truly,

Aaron C. Gillispie, P.E.
State Highway Engineer

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