



# THE POTOMAC-APPALACHIAN TRANSMISSION HIGHLINE

## WHY PATH IS NEEDED

### FACT SHEET

#### ***The PJM Planning Process***

PJM Interconnection directed Allegheny Power and AEP to build PATH to address projected reliability problems on the regional transmission system. PJM is the regional transmission organization serving all or parts of 13 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. It is charged with ensuring the reliability of the bulk power electric grid and planning new transmission facilities to meet the region's reliability needs.

PJM's ongoing analysis (called the Regional Transmission Expansion Plan, or RTEP) weighs a variety of factors:

- electric load forecasts
- addition of new generation
- retirements of old generation plants
- effects of demand-side management and other energy efficiency initiatives

While its planning analysis considers various system conditions – including the status of new and retiring generation plants – PJM does not have the authority to direct the construction of new generation as an alternative to new transmission.

#### ***Reliability Concerns***

The need for the PATH project has been established by conclusions noted in the past four annual RTEP reports, citing reliability violations in the PJM region, including the Mid-Atlantic area.

Well-documented reliability problems – including line overloads and voltage violations – could have a direct impact on service to customers in south central Pennsylvania, central and western Maryland, northern Virginia and the eastern panhandle of West Virginia.

The latest PJM analyses, conducted as part of the independent grid operator's 2010 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP), are consistent with previous studies since 2007 identifying PATH as the preferred solution for resolving issues on the region's transmission grid. Based on the 2010 RTEP findings, PJM is directing that PATH be placed into service by June 1, 2015, at the latest.

#### ***Other Benefits of the PATH Project***

In addition to addressing reliability concerns, PATH will enhance the ability to transfer power across PJM, including electricity generated from renewable resources such as wind. It will also create opportunities to upgrade existing transmission facilities. Due to ongoing constraints on the grid, the lengthy outages required to re-conductor existing lines in the PJM region cannot be undertaken. Building PATH will help to relieve these constraints and permit future upgrades such as the re-conductoring of existing lines.

