

FILE

Butler, Matthew

13-0429-EL-BTX

From: mark.salyers@horizonview.net
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:27 AM
To: Puco ContactOPSB
Cc: mark.salyers
Subject: AEP's new transmission line through the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area in Chillicothe, OH

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I have written you a couple of letters about the above proposed job voicing my concerns about them using the game reserve. Another issue has been bothering me on this so I wanted to see if I'm thinking correctly or not. As I have mentioned to you, I was able to get a copy of the property deed from when the land was originally given for use as a wildlife area and in it the requirement is that if the land is going to be used for any other purpose other than just for wildlife that a request has to go to the GSA and they give the ok or denial to use the land. In my findings, once the GSA has been contacted they in turn will send it to the US Fish & Game Dept who according to the GSA has the final say so in letting AEP use the land. Now for my question. At the public meeting a couple of months ago I understood that the OPSB had the final say so as to where the new line will go and your decision is final. However, it looks to me like the federal government is the one who has to approve the use of the land. I have contacted the GSA and they said that the only negotiations that they are in with AEP on this project is on some acreage around the prison. They have not approached the GSA at all about the wildlife area, the gentleman I have been speaking with at the GSA said that AEP was told that the use of the game reserve has the same restrictions as the prison land to where AEP has to come through GSA and then GSA will turn it over to the US Fish & Game. It seems to me that AEP is putting the cart before the horse in sending the request to you to approve before going through the GSA. If your decision is for them to go ahead with the wildlife area they could be denied access from the US Fish & Game and therefore all of the work up to this point including your time and efforts were all for nothing. Wouldn't it be proper procedure for AEP to get the approval for the use of the land before coming to you to decide on which route is the best? It doesn't seem correct for you to be able to appoint a route for the new line unless you know all of the submitted routes are available for them to use in the first place.

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