



State of New Jersey

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Public Notice
Highlands Applicability Determination Review
Consistency Determination – Historic and Scenic Protection
March 31, 2010

JCP&L Califon Substation
Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County

The proposed Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) electric substation plan was the subject of a July 15, 2009 Amended Decision issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). This Amended Decision constituted a Highlands Applicability Determination (HAD) and Water Quality Management Plan Consistency Determination pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:38-2.4(a). The HAD found that the project was exempt under Exemption #11 of the Highlands Act pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-28.a.11. In the evaluation of Exemption #11 under the Highlands Act, the exemption contains two components. The activity must: 1) constitute an upgrade of public utility lines, rights of way, or systems, by a public utility, and 2) be consistent with the goals and purposes of the Highlands Act. In NJDEP's conditional HAD, NJDEP determined that the JCP&L project met the first component as an upgrade of a public utility system. With respect to the consistency of the project with the goals and purposes of the Highlands Act, NJDEP's conditional determination requires that JCP&L submit to the Highlands Council the landscape plan for review and approval as this is "necessary for the project to achieve consistency with the goals of the Highlands Act."

The Highlands Council is presently reviewing the JCP&L landscape plan and **will also consider any written comments from the public or interested parties on the landscape plan**. The purpose of the Highlands Council review is not to reconsider the entire substation plan or, in any way, reconsider NJDEP's conditional HAD. This entire substation plan has received a thorough review by both NJDEP and the Board of Public Utilities. Accordingly, as specified in NJDEP's conditional HAD, the scope of the Highlands Council's review is specifically limited to a determination whether the landscape plan properly screens "the substation from adjacent homes and roadways and complement the character of the existing historic district" and whether the project is consistent with the goals and purposes of the Highlands Act as they relate to historic and scenic resource protection.

Information is available for public review and comment at <http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/projectreview/>. The public may also use the Highlands Council's *Highlands Interactive Map* link located on the homepage at <http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/> to view information about the project parcel. The subject parcel is Block 17 Lot: 2 in Tewksbury Township

In order to ensure that the Highlands Council provides an opportunity to be heard on this matter, the Council will be accepting written public comments. Comments may be provided on or before Monday **April 19, 2010** by email to: chris.ross@highlands.state.nj.us. While electronic submittals are preferred, comments may also be provided by mail or hand delivery to Chris Ross, Senior Resource Management Specialist, at the address above but must be received by 5:00 PM on this date. Be advised that written public comments previously submitted to the Highlands Council regarding historic and scenic resource protection and the landscape plan will be considered by the Highlands Council; these do not have to be resubmitted, unless the commentor wishes to provide supplemental materials. The Highlands Council's decision in this matter will include a document that addresses and is responsive to the comments received on this project, but only with regard to comments that are within the Highlands Council's limited scope of review.