

## Transmission Line Alternatives

There are many ways to meet people's demand for energy, but Dominion and Allegheny Power only want to pursue one alternative. It is time to consider a broader range of options to meet energy needs before considering irreparable harm to exceptional historic, cultural and environmental resources.

Alternatives:

**1) *Generate power close to demand:*** This transmission line proposal encourages the continuation of an old system. The energy produced by outdated and dirty coal fired plants in the Ohio River Valley is transmitted over long distances to cities in the East Coast market. A diversified network of small, state-of-the-art clean plants near where the power is needed would result in a grid that is more efficient, more reliable, and more secure.

**2) *Improve existing lines:*** Power companies can upgrade voltage and use new technologies to improve the capacity and the performance of transmission lines that are already in place, reducing or eliminating the need for new lines.

**3) *Manage demand:*** Power line congestion is caused not by average usage, but peak usage—for example, at 4PM on the hottest day in August. Effective “demand-management” programs can use financial incentives and convenient technology to encourage people to use less electricity at peak times. These programs can work economically, at little or no inconvenience to consumers.

**4) *Strengthen energy conservation efforts:*** As we face the serious challenges of global climate change, Americans would do better to invest in initiatives that will reduce demand for energy rather than increase supply. Households can also make a difference one by one, dramatically reducing energy consumption by switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs and EnergyStar rated appliances. Using the best building materials and designs, new or renovated homes can achieve impressive energy efficiency at relatively low cost.

**5) *Let the market work:*** There are strong incentives to work for solutions like those listed above, but if the government intervenes in favor of a specific, “out-of-market” solution—the proposed transmission line—those incentives will be distorted. By giving utility companies the ability to charge rate payers the capital costs for new transmission projects and by giving them access to federal condemnation authority, the government may be encouraging the most environmentally destructive solution.