

Good evening. My name is Eve Miari. I am here tonight on behalf of Clean Air Council. The Council is a non-profit environmental organization that has been working to protect everyone's right to clean air, pure water, and a healthy environment for over 50 years. Clean Air Council has over 7,500 members, including many residents here in Carbon County.

The Council advocates for and strongly supports a rapid shift to renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. In Pennsylvania, natural gas has become the predominant energy source, but it is also responsible for leaking and emitting pollution that accelerates climate change and harms public health. That's why the Council is working hard to make sure that wind, solar, and other renewables can flourish in Pennsylvania and surrounding states.

That said, there are several issues that DEP should consider for Broad Mountain Power's proposed wind project in Packer Township and Nesquehoning Borough Carbon County, Pennsylvania.

First, in Broad Mountain Power's individual NPDES Permit Application No. PAD130020, the company seeks approval for the discharge of stormwater from construction activities into eight local waterways. Three of these streams have an existing use classification as High Quality Cold Water Fishes and Migratory Fishes. Five of these streams have an existing use classification of Exceptional Value, the highest protection designation granted to waterways of the Commonwealth, and one that should prohibit any degradation whatsoever.

Four of these Exceptional Value streams - Bear Creek, Broad Run, Dennison Run, and Grassy Meadow Run were upgraded to existing use EV in May 2007 after the DEP's own initiation of a stream designation reevaluation. Since DEP evaluated these streams and re-designated them with an existing use requiring maximum protection for these waterways, DEP must ensure that these streams are protected to the maximum extent possible.

The Council encourages the DEP to carefully consider any alternatives analysis that would prevent pollution discharges into these exceptional value and high quality streams. In the event that a viable alternative is not found, DEP should require Broad Mountain Power to conduct an anti-degradation analysis for each EV stream. Even where wind and solar projects are being considered, operators must be held to the highest standards and must comply with the laws of this Commonwealth to ensure the protection of our waterways for fishing and other recreational uses as well as protection of drinking water sources.

Additionally, residents of Packer Township and Nesquehoning Borough have expressed other concerns that deserve the attention and consideration of PA-DEP when reviewing permit applications. Residents have expressed concerns regarding impacts to wildlife, particularly from deforestation and alteration to natural habitats, as well as stormwater runoff and downstream impacts to trout and the human inhabitants of the mountain. Residents have also expressed concerns regarding noise and sound vibrations and their potential associated health impacts, and the need for baseline sound analysis.

As we transition from a fossil fuel to a clean energy economy, it is essential that we do not repeat the mistakes of the oil and gas industry. Residents' health and safety concerns must be given the highest consideration, including the environmental protections that guarantee their right to clean water. Clean Air Council urges DEP to ensure that the permit application meets the statutory requirements of the state, and that the project does not lead to negative impacts to the land, waterways, wildlife, or to the residents of Broad Mountain. Thank you for your consideration.

