



July 15, 2010

Superintendent John Donahue  
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area  
HQ River Rd off Route 209  
Bushkill, PA 18324-9999

Superintendent Pam Underhill  
Appalachian National Scenic Trail  
P.O. Box 50  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Re: Susquehanna-Roseland Preliminary Alternatives hearing schedule

Dear Superintendents Underhill and Donahue,

On behalf of the organizations listed below and the tens of thousands of members we represent, we strongly urge the National Park Service to reschedule the Preliminary Alternatives public hearings scheduled for August 17-19, 2010.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of rescheduling the hearings and giving the general public a 60 days notice that will allow them adequate time to fully participate in this process. These National Parks are visited by 5 million people every year. Park users have shown their concern about this project and the impacts it will have in the future of these three parks. The undersigned organizations only learned about these important hearings on Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

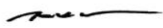
As you know, the public is very engaged and concerned about the specific and cumulative impacts that this project will have on these three national treasures (Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail), the NJ Highlands and other adjacent areas that will be directly impacted by this project. According to the Public Scoping Report, the NPS received 6,500 comments in response to the Internal Scoping Report. Those comments came from throughout the U.S.A., including 5 different Tribal Governments and from as far away as Yugoslavia.

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The middle of August is one of the worst times to schedule public hearings if the hope is to obtain substantial public participation. Many people are away on family vacations and area businesses are at the peak tourism season and not available to attend the hearings or even to learn about them through their local newspapers or other media. Even though there will be a 30 day public comment period, the majority of the general public will have missed the opportunity to attend these critically important hearings where they can learn, in detail, what progress has been made and what alternatives the NPS and its consultants have developed. Those alternatives can be summarized in a newsletter and distributed to the general public, but an 8 page document (as was the Scoping Newsletter) cannot come close to the detail and informational exchange that will occur during the public hearings. Holding the hearings in August will prevent people from that level of involvement.

Please let us know what you decide to do about this critically important issue.

Sincerely,



Maya k. van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Mark Zakutansky, PA Highlands Coordinator  
Appalachian Mountain Club

Dave Slaperud, Trustee  
Stop the Lines

Richard H. McNutt, President  
Tidewater Gateway Partnership, Inc

Shelley DePaul, Assistant Chief  
Lenape Nation of PA Council

Kevin J. Pflug, Staff Attorney  
Eastern Environmental Law Center

Julia Somers, Executive Director  
New Jersey Highlands Coalition

Jeff Tittel, Director  
New Jersey Sierra Club

Wilma Frey, Senior Policy Planner  
New Jersey Conservation Foundation

Cinda Waldbuesser, Penna. Senior Program Manager  
National Parks Conservation Association

Doug O'Malley, Field Director  
Environmental New Jersey