



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

January 23, 2026

RUSSELL TREAS

RE: ER Project # 2025PR00055.014, Project Bolt, Department of Environmental Protection,
Middlesex Township, Cumberland County

Dear RUSSELL TREAS,

Thank you for submitting information concerning the above referenced project.

Above Ground Resources

We are in receipt of the visual analysis memo for potential visual effects to the Appalachian Trail within the Area of Potential (APE) for the project. The memo concludes that while a portion of the trail will be visible from a segment of the trail located between the Conodoguinet Creek and Country Club Road, existing modern visual intrusions are already found in the vicinity of this portion of the trail, and the project will have No Adverse Effect on Historic Properties.

Identified Historic Properties

The Appalachian Trail was previously determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) at the national level under Criterion A in the areas of Recreation and Conservation and meets Criteria Consideration G for properties that have achieved exceptional significance within the past 50 years. The Pennsylvania segment of the trail was developed in 1926-1936 with portions rerouted beginning in 1948. The boundary of the trail conforms to the corridor which extends a maximum of 500 feet on either side of the centerline of the trail. Character defining features of the Appalachian Trail in the project area include the trail itself and views of natural open scenery visible from the trail, which includes rolling hills, farmland and views of North Mountain.

Assessment of Effect

As the proposed project will be visible from the Appalachian Trail, it has the potential to affect the character of the viewshed of the district. An Adverse Effect is defined as an alteration of the characteristics that qualify a historic property for inclusion in the National Register. When assessing visual effects, consideration is to be given to character defining features and the degree to which those characteristics will be diminished by the visibility of the project from the resource.

We disagree with the findings of the visual analysis memo, specifically the finding that the project will have No Adverse Effect on the Appalachian Trail. While there is some modern development in the vicinity of the project area, particularly south of I-81, development on the west side of the trail looking toward the proposed project is largely limited to a transmission line. It is our opinion that construction of the project will have an Adverse Effect on the Appalachian Trail viewshed by obscuring views of open space that contribute to the significance of the resource.

Therefore, we require more information on measures to avoid or minimize the adverse effect to the Appalachian Trail. Would it be possible to screen the proposed new construction from view with dense vegetative screening? Please provide a planting plan to limit the visibility of the project from the Appalachian Trail. The plan should include evergreen trees of mixed varieties, consisting of species capable of growing to a height that will provide the maximum amount of visual screening. The planting plan should include a plan for long-term maintenance of the vegetative screen. In

addition, we would like to inquire about the lighting plan for the proposed project to ensure there is no potential for visual effects to the Appalachian Trail at nighttime. Upon receiving this additional information, we will provide further comments on avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures for the adverse effect on the Appalachian Trail.

For questions concerning above ground resources, please contact Barbara Frederick at bafrederic@pa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Frederick", written in a cursive style.

Barbara Frederick
Environmental Review Division Manager