



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 (2255)

AUG 26 2009

William H. Chambliss, Esq.
General Counsel, State Corporation Commission
Tyler Building, 11th Floor
1300 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Highland New Wind Development, LLC
SCC Case No. PUE-2005-00101; DHR File No. 2003-1027; DEQ Project # 06-011S

Dear Mr. Chambliss:

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) received a copy of the August 19, 2009, letter to your agency from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) regarding the Highland New Wind Development project. We share DHR's concerns about the effects this project will have on historic resources and the applicant's apparent unwillingness to work with DHR and other interest groups.

In our March 9, 2006, letter to the State Corporation Commission (SCC), we predicted that the project would have a dramatic impact on the visual setting of the Camp Allegheny battlefield, a historic property listed in the National Register of Historic Places. We understand that the applicant knows of the existence of this nationally recognized battlefield and is aware of vocal local advocacy for maintaining its pristine setting. While the battlefield lies in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, it is no less significant and will be no less impacted than if it were located in Virginia. We urge the SCC, as the Commonwealth's agent in this matter, to ensure that historic resources are given full consideration in planning for this project. We recommend a professional visual impact assessment be completed prior to final site planning, one that meets DHR standards, and one that ensures the opportunity to avoid or mitigate negative effects to the Camp Allegheny battlefield.

We appreciate your diligence regarding this issue. Please contact me or Tanya Gossett at 202-354-2019 if you have questions about assessing battlefield impacts. We would be pleased to consult.

Sincerely,

Paul Hawke, Chief
American Battlefield Protection Program

Cc: Ms. Kathleen Kilpatrick, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Ms. Susan M Pierce, WV Division of Culture and History
Mr. Henry T. McBride, Jr., Highland New Wind Development, LLC
Mr. John A. Calabrese, Monongahela National Forest
Ms. Roberta A. Lambert, Highland County Administrator
Mr. Martin V. Saffer, Pocahontas County Commission
Ms. Elizabeth Paradis Stern, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation
Mr. Jim Campi, Civil War Preservation Trust