

Hunterdon Review

N.J. Highlands Coalition to appeal JCP&L substation

Posted: Thursday, March 10, 2011 1:00 am

EDITOR:

In “Tewksbury will fight to keep the substation out” in your March 3 issue, you mentioned that the Highlands Coalition will be a party to an appeal challenging the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) approval of the proposed JCP&L electrical substation on Fox Hill Road in Tewksbury.

Yes, we are filing an amicus brief in support of the Friends of Fairmount Historic District, but we are not the Highlands Coalition—that you correctly identify as “a four-state alliance of nearly 200...organizations...to protect the natural resources in the Highlands of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.”

We are the New Jersey Highlands Coalition, an altogether separate and independent group representing the interests of 50 member organizations (and growing) focusing on the protection of the water and other natural and cultural resources of the New Jersey Highlands region.

The New Jersey Highlands Coalition was created by New Jersey environmental groups in 2005 in recognition that New Jersey’s Highlands had immediate challenges that required a more focused effort if they were to survive the encroachments of sprawl and promote the newly-enacted New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act.

The unique challenges we have in New Jersey certainly persist, an example being DEP’s approval of the Fox Hill electric substation despite the New Jersey Highlands Council finding it inconsistent with the Highlands Act, and the Tewksbury Land Use Board’s denial due to legitimate safety concerns.

We are a participating member in the four-state Highlands Coalition.

For more information about the New Jersey Highlands Coalition, and a listing of our member organizations—including a large representation in Hunterdon County—please go to our website at www.njhighlandscoalition.org.

ELLIOTT RUGA
Senior Policy Analyst and Campaign Coordinator
N. J. Highlands Coalition
Boonton