



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8.A.4

Mr. David Anders
Secretary
PJM Board of Managers

Secretary Anders, Advisory Committee members, and PJM Board members:

As the coordinator for the National Historic Landmarks Program in the National Capital Region, I write to oppose a proposal under consideration by PJM's Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee (TEAC). The proposal (part of the NextEra Proposal 853) includes new transmission lines bisecting the Waterford National Historic Landmark District.

Along with National Historic Sites and Monuments, National Historic Landmarks (NHL) are the most significant historic properties in the United States. Designated by the Secretary of the Interior, NHLs are historic places with exceptional value because they commemorate or illustrate the history of the United States. There are only 2,600 NHLs across the country and Waterford is one of the earliest and best-preserved NHL districts. It is a rare, intact example of an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century agricultural service village landscape that evokes the economic, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural patterns characteristic of America's pre-urbanized history.

As you can imagine, the introduction of large-scale transmission lines into this nearly pristine historic setting would do significant damage to the district's historic character, reducing its value as an illustration of our nation's heritage. PJM's public information indicates that "PJM is aware of environmental and social impacts and takes them into consideration when evaluating all submitted proposals."¹ Given the national significance of Waterford's historic landscape and the potential for serious negative impacts from a high-power transmission corridor in or adjacent to the NHL, the National Park Service urges PJM to remove this proposal and identify alternatives that avoid any visual or physical intrusion on the Waterford National Historic Landmark district.

¹ "FAQ: PJM's Role in Regional Planning/2022 RTEP Window 3," [20231205-pjms-role-in-regional-planning-2022-rtep-window-3.ashx](https://www.nps.gov/20231205-pjms-role-in-regional-planning-2022-rtep-window-3.ashx)

Please reach out if you have any questions or require further information. See weblinks for maps of the NHL, and for information on NHLs and the NHL Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn G. Smith", is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.

Kathryn G. Smith

Cc: Tarik Bensala, Secretary, TEAC
Tanya Gossett, Associate Regional Director Resource Stewardship & Science
Lisa Davidson, National Historic Landmarks Program Manager
Stephanie Thompson, Executive Director, Waterford Foundation
Susan Manch, President, Waterford Foundation Board of Directors
Roger Kirchen, Director, Review and Compliance Division, Virginia Department of
Historic Resources

Map link: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/upload/Waterford-NHL-District-Resource-Maps_Jan-2023_508-compliant-2.pdf

Program Links:

- [National Historic Landmarks \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/)
- [An American Agricultural Village after the American Revolution: Waterford, Virginia \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/upload/Waterford-NHL-District-Resource-Maps_Jan-2023_508-compliant-2.pdf)