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Time needed for power line decision

New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities acted appropriately by delaying any decision on a controversial proposal to upgrade 45 miles of PSE&G lines within the Garden State that includes right of way along seven municipalities in Sussex County.

BPU unanimously agreed additional time was needed to properly consider new information that led to the withdrawal of similar power line proposals in Maryland and Virginia.

PJM Interconnection, which coordinates the regional power grid, as recently as last Thursday maintained the project was indeed necessary to ensure that reliability violations and brownouts do not pop up on the line beginning in 2012.

But on Friday, Commissioner Joseph Fiordaliso said PJM's brief letter was insufficient and did not fully address why the stopping of other two states' projects did not have bearing on New Jersey's power-up plan.

Friday's meeting, at one point expected to be re-calendared, was held on schedule after what appears to have been pressure exerted by PSE&G and project supporters pushing for a final answer. Though the meeting itself was not delayed, the result was the same.

The fact that Pennsylvania on Thursday voted 4-1 to OK the upgrade for the 100 miles of lines on its side of the border should not dictate nor quicken New Jersey's decision.

After months of testimony and mountains of documents, further delay may seem merely stalling a decision. But the arguments that included property values, aesthetics, health and safety concerns, ecological and environmental issues, are coming down to a single factor: Is the project really needed?

Over the past two years, demand for electricity has gone down as a result of the economy and conservation efforts. Opponents of the PSE&G Susquehanna-Roseland project claim there is no need for the additional power.

Toward that, it is prudent to thoroughly review reasoning why within a month similar projects in two other eastern states were withdrawn, reportedly after PJM reduced its power-load forecasts.

PJM's decision on the need for the PSE&G project was made in 2007. Recognizing the many variables and differences involved among the utilities and their proposals, it is curious why PJM would seemingly back off other projects but maintain its push for the Susquehanna-Roseland project.

Assuming a satisfactory explanation can be given, the commissioners need to hear it clearly.

The BPU on Friday said it intended to announce its decision within 30 days. Given the gravity and irreversible nature of the issue, the commissioners should take the time necessary and not be pressured to meet its own deadline if questions remain.

ON THE WEB: READER POLL

Question

Privacy concerns derailed discussions on the deployment of body scanners at airports. How do you feel about the use of these security devices, which can "see" through clothing and show explicit images?

It goes too far	23.0%	91
Scan away. I welcome the additional security	72.0%	285
Other, please comment	5.1%	20
Total votes		396

Comments

ACLU will have a field day with this one.

There is no civil right that entitles one to travel by air. That being said, it is way past time to stop random search of grandmothers. Drop the PC, and profile appropriately.

Stop being so politically correct. We just came back from traveling out of the country.... On the flight back everyone got the pat down, men, women and children. Everyone was polite, however, among all of us we talked and agreed what needed to be done is look for Muslims. They are the source of the problem. And if they are feeling picked on, too bad. The good ones will understand.

You choose to fly. Don't like it? Walk.

As Benjamin Franklin is reported to have said, "Those who would give up freedom for a little temporary security will neither deserve, nor have, liberty or security."

That's right, look only for Muslims. Muslim is a religion, not a race. Anyone can have faith in any religion. The bomber at Christmas was from Africa. There are many Americans with blonde hair and blue eyes that practice the Muslim faith. Don't you get tired of being so completely stupid and prejudiced?

Cut the ACLU, libertard, politically correct crap already. If it walks like a duck, looks like a duck, sounds like a duck, has a name like a duck, it b a duh! Double scan the ones that say it's "against their religion"! lol

This country gets dumber and dumber. They don't even trust their own. This country lets anyone in it, even terrorists. They think they own us, but they don't!

Just wait until the first full body scan of a young Muslim woman hits the 'Net ... let the games begin.

Do we need to screen outgoing or incoming flights? The recent case shows the threat is more likely to occur on incoming flights.

Profiling just Muslims is not going to solve the problem. Some Muslims do not have Muslim-sounding names. ... So if we look at recent history, Adam Pearlman, who isn't Muslim, joined al-Qaida. Also, the shoe bomber in 2001 was named Richard Reid, which doesn't sound Muslim at all.

Record cold and snow heat up climate debate

COLUMN: GREGORY J. RUMMO

As is a part of my morning routine in the office, I scan the "What's News" section on the front page of the Wall Street Journal. The Jan. 5 edition had three separate stories dealing with climate change. The first mentioned that "temperatures plunged from Florida to Minnesota in one of the most widespread cold snaps in 25 years." The second, five paragraphs down reported on avalanches that killed five people in the Swiss Alps because so much snow has fallen in such a short span of time. And as if to confirm this, the third snippet directly below stated that a "winter storm buried Seoul under the heaviest snowfall in modern Korean history." Meanwhile back home, temperatures as low as minus 50F were forecast in the Midwest as it braced for yet another winter storm.



GREGORY J. RUMMO

Last week there were more than 1,200 cold and snow records in the U.S. alone. Oranges were freezing on the trees in Central Florida. Record low temperatures dipped as far south as northern Mexico where there were warnings for sleet and freezing rain—something unheard of in that part of the world.

Al Gore was unavailable for comment. No matter; the Sydney Morning Herald found another good Chicken Little to offer up an explanation for the state of the weather: The head of the Beijing Meteorological Bureau, Guo Hu was in the midst of dealing with his own "freak snowstorms and record low temperatures sweeping northern China." In typical repeat the lie and pretty soon it will become the truth fashion, Mr. Guo linked the blizzard-like conditions this week to unusual atmospheric patterns caused by-you guessed it-global warming.

Given the almost decade-long cooling trend that the earth is currently experiencing, we can expect this type of any-

thing goes scientific analysis to continue in order to further the ambitions of the global warming proponents. Fred S. Singer, president and founder of Science and Environment Policy Project, commented earlier this year about the climate confusion in Antarctica. "Not long ago we learned that a cooling Antarctica was 'consistent with' greenhouse warming and thus the skeptics were wrong. So a warming Antarctica and a cooling Antarctica is both 'consistent with' model projections of global warming. Our foray into the tortured logic of 'consistent with' in climate science raises the perennial question, what observations of the climate system would be inconsistent with the model predictions?"

Al Gore was unavailable for comment. This approach to climate change — that every anomaly either hotter, colder, snowier, drier, windier, more hurricanes, less hurricanes, more arctic ice, less arctic ice can all be attributed to the combustion of fossil fuels is quite frankly absurd.

It is not science. It is in fact criminal in several aspects. The proponents of climate change continue to expect the rest of us to believe whatever they shovel our way and should we question the validity of the data — regardless of our qualifications — we are labeled as "deniers," because according to them, "the science is settled."

But the growing number of scientists critical of the anthropogenic premise for global warming unsettles the science along with its conclusions and implications. Isn't critical peer review what scientific investigation is all about? Since when did conflicting scientific data generated in the laboratory or obtained from the field result not in open-minded debate but in puerile nah-nah-nah-nah name calling? When lots of money is involved I believe is the correct answer. Climate change researchers are fleecing already stressed governments and

other institutions, wasting grant money that could otherwise be better spent on projects such as providing potable water or the eradication of malaria-real crises that affect millions of people. Adding insult to injury, should these junk scientists ever succeed in cowing the leaders of the world to enact broad sweeping carbon taxes, it is the poorest people of the world that would suffer the most.

But as a scientist I am an optimist that the truth will ultimately prevail. The plans for an international cooperation coming out of the climate summit in Copenhagen in December were dashed despite President Obama's characterization of the talks as "making a meaningful and unprecedented breakthrough."

I'd like to think the collapsed talks were due to the revelation a month earlier (and possibly in the backs of some of the participant's minds) of those hacked e-mails that showed critical climate change data had been suppressed by global warming proponents at London's University of East Anglia.

And while we're on the topic of London's "Warmergate," the Metro News reported on Jan. 5 that "hard-up pensioners have resorted to buying books from charity shops and burning them to keep warm." The temperatures across the big puddle were forecast to plummet "as low as minus 13 degrees centigrade in the Scottish Highlands... -6C in London, minus 5C in Birmingham and minus 7C in Manchester as one of the coldest winters in years continues to bite."

What has all of this done to the Earth's climate? Global temperatures have dropped 0.0158 degrees Fahrenheit since Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" was released.

Al Gore was unavailable for comment.

(Gregory J. Rummo is a businessman, journalist and the author of "The View from the Grass Roots" and "The View from the Grass Roots — Another Look." Contact him at GregRummo.com.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Questions about voting irregularities in Vernon

Editor:

Thank you for "Vote of support for Board of Elections" (Sunday, Jan. 3) by Marge McCabe, which described one of the courtroom events at the Superior Court in Morristown.

On election day morning I received a disturbing phone call. Apparently a voter had voted for me and when the voter went to review the choices there was confusion because my name did not come up immediately on the review screen. This was upsetting and confusing. That voter immediately spoke to poll workers about this. They all said, "Not to worry," it was a "glitch" in the system, "go ahead and vote." This scenario was repeated all day in Vernon Township.

Later that evening, other residents had also told me that there were other "glitches" that people had experienced. Another disturbing incident was that a door to the Pochuck polling district was locked at rush hour. This was verified by a police report. If you experienced any voting irregularities you know what I am talking about.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 was passed by a bi-partisan effort by congress under the George W. Bush administration. There should have been "no confusion" upon verification of vote as HAVA clearly states.

Mrs. McCabe, the county elections administrator, wrote about the demonstration before the judge on the ES&S iVotronic during the course of a trial conference. One fact she omitted in her letter to the editor was that the judge did not watch the entire demonstration. Mrs. McCabe explained to the court for purposes of documentation how to use this particular model. The judge did not observe how someone could have been confused.

As the judge ruled that the machines were certified and even more "user

friendly" than other machines in the state, why has there been a three-year campaign to get the state to certify new firmware to "fix it" to make it even more user friendly? Why was the deputy attorney general present in the courtroom? Why did he say that there was going to be a meeting on Dec. 17 regarding certification of new firmware? Why didn't the judge watch to see for himself where the "glitch" was as a matter of fairness to the average voter? Why was the door locked at the Pochuck voting location?

As a local candidate, I apologize if you as a voter feel disenfranchised. For the record, I will continue to vote, most definitely, but I will use a mail-in ballot, which will be verified. Anyone may use one. From the comfort of my home I will vote. I hope you will also follow suit.

Mary Ellen Vichiconti
Independent candidate
Vernon Township

Why does state not enforce bear-feeding ban?

Editor:

Recently, a mother bear with five cubs entered the Sussex County town of Wantage. Some of the cubs may well have been adopted orphans. The ursine family was drawn into the town by the sizable amounts of available garbage. In the process of getting a meal from the Dumpster and garbage cans, the mother was shot and killed first. One by one, the cubs met the same fate, until the last was struck and killed by a car.

During his brief time in office as governor, James McGreevey signed a bill prohibiting the feeding of bears, intentional or unintentional. In the past five years, there have been just six citations issued. Why is this law not being enforced?

On the broader picture, why did the Division of Fish and Wildlife work to increase the number of black bears in New Jersey if these creatures present a

potential danger to pets, children and residents? Why were the citizens not consulted first? Did most of them want more bears so that 1 percent of the state's population could have a trophy hunt? It is time to restructure the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Jean Mollack
Phillipsburg

Our dangerous leadership no match for terrorism

Editor:

We are living in dangerous times. The ideology of radical Islam and its ever-growing legion of devotees have as their single-minded goal the destruction of all upon whom they cannot impose Islamic Sharia Law, and that means us: the infidels.

These are not just a few isolated misguided individuals. They are religious zealots who will use any means to achieve their ends. Violence is not an impediment, but revered. In the face of this very real and imminent danger, our president's stance is that if we "play nice," and lead by the example of our democratic principles, our enemies somehow will be transformed and will no longer want to kill us! This naiveté is mind-boggling and dangerous.

In the absence of an avowed offensive posture, we must, at minimum, put into place strong and, yes, politically incorrect defensive measures to protect us, most especially profiling in all its permutations. Too, intelligence, once gained, must be acted upon swiftly and reliably by our government.

Our president's first and most solemn responsibility is to protect our country. By pacifying those who would do us harm, America is projecting an image of weakness and vulnerability that emboldens our enemies and encourages a "strike while the iron is hot" mentality. This weakness is manifested in numer-

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Thank you very much ...

Editor:

On behalf of Pass It Along and the Holidays Around the County Committee, we want to thank everyone who helped to make the eighth annual toy shop successful. We want to start by saying a very big thank you to Pastor Diane Koob, Christie and everyone at the Sparta United Methodist Church for giving us a home for the toy shop. Their support throughout the years has been tremendous!

Through the generous donations and support of many individuals, families, Girl Scout troops, Boy Scout troops, churches, local schools and businesses, over 1,425 children each received four gifts, plus home-baked cookies, wrapping paper and an ornament. We truly appreciate all the hard work that our volunteers did to set up, keep the toy shop running smoothly and take down at the end. Without all of you we could not have been successful. Thank you to all our non-profit partners for their constant support.

Many thanks also go to Selective Insurance for the

third annual "Build a Bike" competition, which resulted in 15 bicycles being built and then donated, along with helmets, to our toy shop. These bikes were then given as free raffles to our families.

A special thanks to the more than 45 businesses that placed collection boxes in their places of business. To our good friends at Sutherland Packaging for again supplying all the boxes for our toy donations, thank you as well. We wish to thank Advanced Self Storage in Sparta and AA1 Storage in Ogdensburg for generously donating the space to store all our toy donations.

Without the help of so many people (too many to name individually), we would have been unable to help the many families who were in need during this holiday season. Pass It Along wishes everyone a joyous New Year.

Diane Taylor, President
Susan Loyas, Director of Annual Events
Pass It Along

Editor:

CLAWS Cat Rescue and Adoption Shelter of Sussex

would like to thank the New Jersey Herald for sponsoring the annual No. 1 Pet contest, and for their generosity in allowing the owner of the winning pet to make a donation to the animal charity of their choice.

CLAWS would also like to congratulate and thank the parents of Cricket for choosing CLAWS as the recipient of the donation this year. Judging by the response, this contest seems to be very popular with the New Jersey Herald readers.

We hope that you will continue this contest and that the pet owners of Sussex County will continue to submit photos of their favorite pets for us all to enjoy.

Laurie Walsh
President/Administrator
CLAWS

Editor: The residents and staff of Valley View Care Center once again wish to thank our community volunteers who have enriched the lives of our VVCC family during the year, and most recently at the holidays.

Thank you to Harmony in

Motion, the Don Bosco Columbiettes, and the Sussex County Oratorio Society for their musical entertainment. Thank you to the Girl Scouts for their handmade tree ornaments and to the "Gingerbread Lady" for her army of gingerbread men. Thanks to the anonymous donor of toiletries and bed-sox for all.

Thank you to Cheryl, Nichole and Kelly Martino of Sparta for the lovely Thanksgiving corsages. Special ongoing thanks to Levi the therapy dog and Maria for their weekly visits, to Terri and Rosemarie from St. Joseph's Church for their monthly rosary and communion services, and to the A.A.R.P. ladies for their monthly bingo games.

Residents of a nursing home can feel isolated from the community by living in a controlled environment, and your visits from outside their daily life keep them connected to the world.

Thank you again for this service.

Sue DeBonis
Activities Director
Valley View Care Center