PPL Montour, LLC 18 McMichael Road P.O. Box 128 Washingtonville, PA 17884-0128 Tel. 570-437-2081 www.pplweb.com



May 11, 2015

Montour County Commissioners Attn: Chairman Trevor Finn Montour County Courthouse 29 Mill St. Danville, PA 17821

Dear Trevor:

As you know, we have been engaged for some time in discussions with the Montour Area Recreation Commission, acting on the county's behalf, about future use of the Montour Preserve Education Center and associated recreational facilities. We have discussed various proposals with representatives from MARC and the county for well over six months. We have been clear from the outset that it is imperative for the plant's future to reduce plant operating costs related to the ongoing maintenance of preserve lands and facilities.

It remains our intention to keep the preserve lands and facilities open to the public for passive recreation such as hiking, biking, fishing and canoeing. As an alternative, we have proposed leasing preserve land and facilities to MARC at essentially no cost for the purpose of continuing existing recreational activities, provided that MARC assumes sole financial responsibility for ongoing operation and maintenance costs with no financial assistance from the Montour plant or its owner.

We recognize that this would result in a new and significant financial responsibility for the county. To date, we have not been able to come to an agreement on a lease arrangement for the use and maintenance of preserve land and facilities.

We have asked MARC for a decision by June 1 on the options we have proposed for managing the facilities and grounds. We require a decision by that date because the Montour plant is not prepared to support operating and maintenance costs for the upcoming summer.



Montour County Commissioners Attn: Chairman Trevor Finn Page 2

If no agreement is in place on June 1, the Montour plant will take the following steps to transition preserve lands and facilities to more passive recreational uses:

- The Education Center would **remain open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, and preserve lands would **remain available for public use** for passive recreation such as hiking, fishing and canoeing.
- The trail system would remain available for public use, but Montour plant staff would no longer perform maintenance. We would welcome organizations that have volunteered interest such as Scout troops to perform trail maintenance.
- All picnic pavilion reservations after June 1 would be canceled and payments refunded. Pavilions and restroom facilities will be removed and roads leading to the pavilions will be closed to vehicle traffic. All parking lots would remain open.
- The boat launch area will be gated, and closed to motor traffic. Access to Lake Chillisquaque by foot will be maintained for fishing and canoeing.
- Other actively managed recreation facilities within the preserve, such as the fossil pit, would be closed or removed.

We certainly appreciate the value of the facilities to the surrounding community, and will continue to allow public access to the land, but our priority is – and must be – keeping the Montour plant cost-competitive. We have already taken extensive, and sometimes difficult, steps to protect the jobs of the plant's roughly 200 employees, the related economic activity that results from the plant's presence in Montour County, and the tax revenue the plant provides to communities. In a time when a significant number of coal-fired power plants around the country have been phased out because of cost pressures and changing market conditions, we must continue to reduce costs and look at things differently than we have in the past to keep our plant competitive.



Montour County Commissioners Attn: Chairman Trevor Finn Page 3

If you have any questions about the preserve or the plant, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John Weeks

Plant Manager - Fossil Generation

JW/pj

cc: Robert T. Stoudt, Montour Area Recreation Commission Director

Representative Lou Barletta State Senator John R. Gordner

State Representative Kurt A. Masser