
BUREAU OF FORESTRY

December 24, 2025

Mr. Daniel Harvey
Department of Environmental Protection

TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

Re: Department Review of Tract 723 and 724 Access Road, Loyalsock State Forest

Dear Mr. Harvey:

This letter is in response to the joint Department of Environmental Protection and Bureau of Forestry (Bureau) meeting, held December 23, 2025, to review the proposed Pennsylvania General Energy (PGE) access road to accommodate State Forest lease tracts 723 and 724.

The Bureau conducts an extensive and comprehensive review of all natural gas infrastructure proposed on State Forest land. The robust process identifies conflicts and concerns with State Forest resources, uses, and values early in the planning process that must be addressed in order to receive preliminary project approval. Preliminary project submission includes a map delineating the proposed project (in hardcopy along with ESRI ArcGIS compatible shapefiles) a project narrative describing the type of project being proposed, anticipated timing and areas being impacted, and a PNDI receipt. The Bureau's final approval is predicated on a complete project submission to include:

- Non-development areas, Areas of Special Consideration, Non-Surface Disturbance areas as specified by lease
- Required setbacks as specified in the lease from lease boundaries, roads, streams, wetlands etc
- Potential sensitive resources
- PNDI review of rare, threatened and endangered plants, animals, communities and invertebrates
- Wetlands and other water resources
- Water course designation (e.g., HQ, EV, WTS)
- Recreational trails, trailheads, high-use areas and ROS zones
- Viewsheds, vistas and aesthetics
- Landscape plans (review landscape narrative and inventory info)
- Timber harvest plans
- Soil surveys
- Compliance with the lease
- Cultural and Historic resources
- Ecologically sensitive habitat or potential habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species
- Current or potential timber value
- Other unique or ecologically significant features

The Bureau has reviewed and provided preliminary approval on July 29, 2025 for the Tract 723 and 724 access road.. Consequently, PGE has submitted to the Bureau for final approval. The Bureau has conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed access road and final approval of the project is anticipated.

conserve

sustain

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The Bureaus final approval stipulates all requirements for the project as coordinated with PGE during the approval process. Some items include limitations on corridor widths, allowable road running surfaces and widths, expected limits of clearing, timber removal best practices, protection and enhancement of sensitive resources, species and habitats, integrity and continuity of the trail system, and avoidance and minimization techniques in areas of special concern.

The development of tracts 723 and 724 is extremely complex with EV designations, steep topography, a vernal pool complex, and lease restrictions on disturbance. The Bureau feels confident in our comprehensive review and supports the currently proposed route as the best alternative to avoid the majority of the resources.

The Bureau thanks you for the invitation to provide feedback on the proposed project. Please contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Craig Chapman
Division Chief
Minerals Division, Bureau of Forestry

cc::

Minerals Division, BOF (via email)
Loyalsock State Forest, BOF (via email)
Jason Albright, BOF (via email)
Kendra Schiappa, PGE (via email)