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September 16, 2009

William H. Chambliss, General Counsel
Virginia State Corporation Commission
Tyler Building, 11th Floor
1300 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Highland New Wind Development LLC; SCC Case No. PUE-2005-00101

Dear Mr. Chambliss:

I'm writing to express concern about the Highland New Wind Development project, just across the state line from historic Camp Allegheny in Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

Camp Allegheny, scene of a Confederate encampment (1861-62) and battlefield, is one of the premier Civil War sites in America. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Outstanding preservation and a pristine landscape set this site apart.

Wonderfully preserved earthworks and cabin sites crown ridges that offer stunning mountain views. That historic landscape will be marred by the construction of wind turbines by Highland New Wind Development, crowding the state line in Virginia.

National Park Service Chief Historian *Emeritus* Edwin C. Bearss has called Camp Allegheny "one of the best preserved Civil War sites in the country." Others have compared the historic landscape to that of Little Bighorn Battlefield. The Congressional Civil War Sites Advisory Commission *Report on America's Civil War Battlefields* (1993) contains more modern photos of this site than any other. It is indeed a special place!

The Civil War Preservation Trust's "10 Most Endangered Sites" for 2009 includes Camp Allegheny as "At Risk" due to this wind energy project. Wind turbines will be prominently visible from the site, altering a landscape that has remained virtually unchanged for 150 years.

I urge the SCC to give this site full consideration in the planning process. **Important historical and architectural features of Camp Allegheny are located less than 1½ mile from the proposed project.** A professional visual impact assessment should be completed. I strongly urge you to visit Camp Allegheny and see for yourself. This special place belongs to all Americans, but its fate now lies in your hands.

Sincerely,

W. Hunter Lesser
Consulting Archaeologist