



NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

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www.SierraClub.org/NJ

September 12, 2016

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Docket No. CP15-558-000 PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC Draft Environmental Impact Statement for proposed PennEast Pipeline

Dear Ms. Bose and Mr. Davis:

On behalf of the New Jersey Sierra Club, we are requesting that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for PennEast Pipeline be denied. We do not believe that the comment period was long enough to accommodate everyone who wished to put their voice on the record. We also believe that the unconventional format of the hearings led to the discouragement of citizens from coming out and speaking. It is important for all citizens along the route to have the opportunity to come to a hearing and put information on the record yet this opportunity was not fairly afforded to everyone.

The DEIS should also be denied because it is lacking in information. This includes the 79 references to missing or incomplete information referenced by the document itself. This makes their DEIS overall incomplete. Over 70 percent of landowners have denied PennEast survey access and said NO to the pipeline. Without this survey access they have not gained enough data for a DEIS. Since they don't have enough information on the pipeline's potential impacts to the environment and safety concerns, this cannot be considered a proper analysis. We believe that the DEIS itself should be withdrawn because of its incompleteness and missing information.

PennEast Pipeline also does not even have enough information for necessary permits required from NJDEP. The PennEast Pipeline violates the Clean Water Act and cannot meet the criteria for 404 permits. Also, we believe that this pipeline cannot meet the requirement for a 401 water quality permit. The reason is because of the amount of high quality streams, wetlands, and rivers it is crossing through. Many of these streams carry anti-degradation criteria. The route will cut areas with steep slopes having a bigger impact on streams because of siltation and runoff.



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PennEast would cut an ugly scar through our communities and environmentally sensitive areas. They note significant impacts without specifying what they are. They also state that they can mitigate for those impacts. However, if we don't know what those impacts are, how can we know if you can mitigate for them? The DEIS for the project itself is incomplete and does not provide information supporting the pipeline's ability to obtain necessary permits. Most importantly, the people of the Valley were deprived of their right to speak out against it in the typical manner. For all of these reasons listed, we believe that this DEIS for PennEast Pipeline should be denied.

Please see our previous comments on the record for more information. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to call me at (609) 558-9100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Tittel".

Jeff Tittel
Director, New Jersey Sierra Club

Document Content(s)

SC Comments PennEast DEIS.DOCX.....1-2