



# TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

## MERCER COUNTY

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September 8, 2016

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

**Re: Docket PF15-1-000  
Proposed Gas Pipeline  
PennEast Pipeline Company LLC  
Hopewell Township, Mercer County**

Dear Ms. Bose:

Hopewell Township has reviewed its public well record files and has determined that the lots shown on the attached map in red shade may be impacted by the proposed PennEast pipeline. There are approximately 83 wells on these lots appear to be located within 500 feet of the proposed pipeline and may be impacted. Neither the PennEast filings to date or the DEIS reference any efforts to study the impacts on these wells or other wells that may be located within 500 but are not part of records on file in our municipal offices.

The aquifers serving these wells are sole source aquifers under the Safe Water Drinking Act, which means it is the only reasonable source for clean drinking water in the area. We have seen previously that development using blasting and other heavy construction activities involving dewatering have the high potential to negatively impact wells in our community. Interruption of the well water supply to residential homes affects the health and well-being of the residents. As a matter of public health and safety FERC should require PennEast to proactively develop specific site-by-site plans to avoid any well impacts, using publicly available well information.

PennEast has failed to take advantage of publicly available information on existing wells that may be impacted by the pipeline's construction. Therefore, the DEIS is incomplete under NEPA regulations, and therefore should be withdrawn.

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When information is available it should be used in the analysis of impacts. This is again demonstration that NEPA has not been complied with as all environmental information has not been made available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made. . . [and] [t]he information must be of high quality." 40 C.F.R. 1500.1(b). Further the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations on unavailable information are clear and if the information is obtainable and relevant to the project the agency must wait and obtain the information. 40 C.F.R. 1502.22.

On this basis Hopewell Township requests that FERC withdraw the Draft DEIS. Once a DEIS using all available environmental information has been issued, Hopewell Township requests an additional 45 day comment period.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. Kuchinski, Mayor

C: Hopewell Township Committee  
Steven P. Goodell, Esquire  
Governor Chris Christie  
Senator Robert Menendez  
Senator Cory Booker  
Senator Shirley Turner  
Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Assemblywoman Elizabeth Maher Muoio  
Assemblyman Reed Gusciora  
Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Robert Martin, NJDEP Commissioner  
John Gray, NJDEP Deputy Chief of Staff  
Judith A. Enck, USEPA Region 2 Administrator



Site with individual on-site well located within 500 feet of pipeline based upon existing public records available in Hopewell Township

- HTBuilding Footprints2010
- HTWells\_Streams
- HMM\_PENNEAST\_PROJECT\_HOPEWELL\_TWP\_MILEPOST\_STATION\_EQUATIONS
- PennEast Pipeline Centerline
- HMM\_PENNEAST\_PROJECT\_PROPOSED\_PIPELINE\_400ftCorridor
- HTParcel