



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

MERCER COUNTY

201 Washington Crossing Pennington Road
Titusville, New Jersey 08560-1410
609.737.0605 Ext. 664
609.737.6839 Fax
September 8, 2016

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

**RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Docket CP15-558-000
Proposed Gas Pipeline
PennEast Pipeline Company LLC
Hopewell Township, Mercer County**

Dear Ms. Bose,

Hopewell Township makes the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) regarding the proposed connection with the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Connection (Transco).

Hopewell Township has repeatedly commented upon the proposed location of the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline (Transco) connection. Transco is an open access pipeline system and PennEast has not provided an alternative analysis for an alternative Transco location suggested by Hopewell Township. The DEIS is silent on this issue. Additionally, the DEIS refers to 2 connections to Transco and the second connection has not been made apparent on any of the plans filed by PennEast with this application.

Transco bisects Hopewell Township in the southern sector of the township, traversing from southwest to northeast. Transco pipelines do not deviate in diameter or operating pressure along their length in Hopewell Township.

It is possible for PennEast to connect to Transco approximately 11,000 feet west of the proposed connection along the CSX railroad. This alternative connection offers the following:

- The alternative connection is located in a light industrial area.
- This alternative eliminates the significant impacts to the residential and farmland area as presently proposed.
- The length of the pipeline and related costs are reduced.
- This alternative avoids crossing of NJSH Route 31 and related traffic disruption.

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- This alternative avoids all impacts to the Hopewell Township Affordable Housing site and program which is a constitutional mandate as defined by the New Jersey Supreme Court.
- This alternative avoids the need for a second connection to Transco.

The DEIS must evaluate this alternative Transco connection or any other alternative Transco connection due to the magnitude of environmental benefits using an alternate Transco connection location provides .

The DEIS must obligate PennEast to clearly identify the second Transco connection and related above ground construction attributes (similar to the proposed connection).

These comments again demonstrate 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.

Hopewell Township requests that FERC withdraw the DEIS.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. Kuchinski, Mayor
Hopewell Township

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
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