

Submission Description: (doc-less) Motion to Intervene of Appalachian Trail Conservancy under CP15-558-000.

Submission Date: 10/26/2015 3:36:27 PM

Filed Date: 10/26/2015 3:36:27 PM

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CP15-558-000 Application of PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Authorizations

Filing Party/Contacts:

Filing Party	Signer (Representative)
Other Contact (Principal)	
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Appalachian Trail Conservancy	lbelleville@appalachiantrail.org

Basis for Intervening:

This request is on behalf of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). ATC, a §501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, works closely with 31 Appalachian Trail clubs and public and private partners to ensure the protection and stewardship of the natural, cultural, and experiential resources of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (known as ANST, the A.T., or "the Trail").

The ANST is a unique unit of NPS, requiring special attention in light of energy infrastructure development. The Trail was first conceived by regional planner Benton MacKaye in 1921 as a way to preserve the crest line of the Appalachian Mountains and provide a wilderness retreat from life in the increasingly urbanized eastern United States. This concept is relevant to eligibility for the National Historic Register. The A.T. was later designated one of the first national scenic trails under the 1968 National Trails System Act and has since become a world premier recreational and hiking resource attracting over 2 million visitors each year. The same Act acknowledges the important role of non-profit organizations such as ATC, and affiliated volunteers, to manage and protect Trail interests.

The proposed PennEast pipeline will cross the ANST potentially impacting natural, cultural, and scenic resources associated with the Trail. ATC staff are technical, on the ground, experts regarding ANST management.