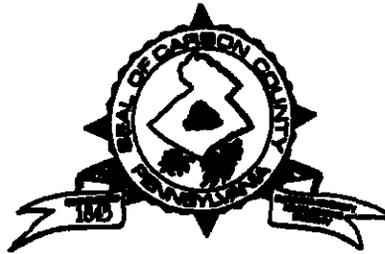


OFFICE OF THE CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners
Wayne E. Nothstein, Chairman
Tom J. Gerhard, Vice-Chairman
William J. O'Gurek, Member
Eloise K. Ahner, County Administrator
Daniel A. Miscavige, Solicitor



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September 2, 2016

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

ORIGINAL

FILED
SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION
2016 SEP -6 P 2:00
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Re: Docket CP15-558 / PennEast Pipeline Project
Draft Environmental Impact Study

Dear Secretary Bose,

As Carbon County Commissioners and as intervenors regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's review of the proposed PennEast Pipeline, we would like to point out the pipeline, as proposed, will have significant impacts on natural resources located within Carbon County, Pennsylvania, including the Francis E. Walter Dam, Hickory Run State Park, Beltzville State Park and the City of Bethlehem Wild Creek Watershed.

The County's Office of Planning and Development performed an initial comprehensive planning review of the Permit Application for the proposed Penn East Pipeline Project located in the Townships of Kidder, Penn Forest, Towamensing and Lower Towamensing, Carbon County, PA. Its review report stated the proposed project is not consistent with the goals and objectives of the Carbon County Comprehensive Plan & Greenway Plan and local land use and land development ordinances.

As noted on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission website, "FERC staff determined that construction and operation of the Project would result in some adverse environmental impacts, but impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of PennEast's proposed and FERC staff's recommended mitigation measures. This determination is based on a review of the information provided by PennEast and further developed from data requests, field investigations, scoping, literature research, alternatives analysis, and contacts with federal, state, and local agencies as well as Indian tribes and individual members of the public."

To date, no land development plan or application to the Kidder Township Planning Commission or Township Supervisors for the construction of the compressor station has been submitted for compliance pursuant to the PA Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247 of 1968, as amended with the following existing Land Development Ordinances of the Kidder Township Planning Agencies:

Kimberly Bose
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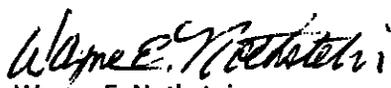
- Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)
- Ordinance 174 - Standards for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines, Pipeline Compressor Station, Metering Station or Operation/Maintenance of the Facilities and Transmission Pipelines
- Ordinance 147 - Specific Standards for Oil and Gas Development Facilities.
- Ordinance 148 - Specific Standards for Operation of Oil and Gas Development Facilities and enforcement thereof.

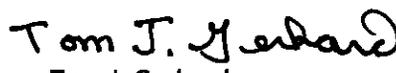
Further, the PennEast Pipeline project is utilizing Eminent Domain to force property owners in Carbon County to sell pipeline easements, even though this pipeline is being constructed for private profit. In our opinion, Eminent Domain should not be conferred to a private company which will be making a profit to take private and preserved lands, unless a clear public need is established. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has the responsibility to first verify a public need before proceeding with the environmental impact statement and certification.

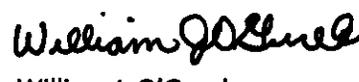
We strongly urge all the members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reconsider the issuance of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement at this time and withdraw the DEIS until all necessary factual data and comments from all impacted land owners, concerned community members and environmental advocates necessary for a thorough project evaluation are received before reaching any conclusions about the pipeline project's viability or advisability. This project should not move forward in the absence of appropriate public hearings and substantial evidence of a public need for this pipeline project.

Sincerely,

CARBON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Wayne E. Nothstein,
Chairman


Tom J. Gerhard
Vice Chairman


William J. O'Gurek
Commissioner

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