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EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION #131-14

WHEREAS, PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC, a joint project of AGL Resources, NJR Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of New Jersey Resources, South Jersey Industries, PSEG Power LLC, and UGI Energy Services, a subsidiary of UGI Corporation, has proposed the construction of a new pipeline for the transfer and deliver of natural gas produced by hydraulic fracturing in areas of Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline is approximately one hundred and eight (108) miles, long of thirty to thirty-six inch (30"-36") buried pipe with a permanent right of way of up to 100 feet, crossing parts of Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania and Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, as currently proposed, the pipeline route cuts through East Amwell Townships' adjoining municipalities Delaware Township, Hopewell Township and West Amwell Township to the west of East Amwell Township, approximately between 1.2 miles and 1.3 miles from East Amwell Township's borders at its closest points; and

WHEREAS, approximately one half of East Amwell Township is located in the Sourland Mountain region and the proposed pipeline route cuts across the Sourland Mountain region, which is identified by the East Amwell Township Land Management Plan ("the Plan") as an area containing natural resources of regional and statewide significance. The Plan considers the convergence of critical features, including wetlands, large contiguous forests, critical habitat for threatened and endangered species and other significant flora and fauna, and limiting geology characterized by low rates of recharge for bedrock aquifers and low yielding wells, as requiring protective land use policies and regulations. These resources and assets are irreplaceable and once changed will never be fully restored; and

WHEREAS, among the identified goals of the East Amwell Township Master Plan Reexamination Report (2013) are: ensuring that the development of individual municipalities does not conflict with the development and general welfare of neighboring municipalities, the County and the State as a whole; expanding and implementing the Greenways and Open Space Plan so that it links environmentally sensitive areas, historic places, existing State, County and

Municipal land holdings and provides for opportunities for a network of open space, both which encourage connections that unite governmental jurisdictions and promote robust neighborly civic engagement that protects regional as well as local interests; and

WHEREAS, East Amwell Township recognized the importance of inter-municipal coordination and comprehensive planning as the lead agency in the development of Phase 1 of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the 90 square mile unique and ecologically fragile Sourland Mountain region in 2005 under a Smart Growth grant from the State of New Jersey fostering protection of the contiguous Sourland Mountain region with the Townships of West Amwell, Montgomery, Hillsborough, Hopewell and the Counties of Hunterdon, Somerset and Mercer, Sourland Planning Council, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, and Banisch Associates; East Amwell joined with these entities to complete Phase 2 of the Sourland Mountain Comprehensive Management Plan, adopting a resolution endorsing the inter-municipal Plan (RESOLUTION #108 -11); and

WHEREAS, East Amwell Township was the lead agency of the Sourland Mountain Watershed Management Plan promoting inter-municipal cooperation to manage stormwater and watershed values with the Townships of West Amwell and Montgomery, the Counties of Hunterdon, Somerset and Mercer, the Sourland Planning Council, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, the NJ Water Supply Authority, and the Regional Planning Partnership, under a 2004 grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP); and

WHEREAS, the East Amwell Township Land Management Plan identifies the protection of adequate water supply and prevention of contamination of drinking water as critical public health and welfare concerns, considering that the Township is fully dependent on individual water wells fed by very limited groundwater resources, particularly in the Sourland Mountain District, and individual septic systems for sewage disposal that are vulnerable to disturbance from construction, blasting, deforestation and land use changes with unpredictable short and long-term effects that would accompany the PennEast pipeline project proximate to East Amwell Township in nearby townships; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline route traverses active agricultural lands in its neighboring municipalities, which are central to the rural nature and economy of the region, located near and, in some instances, spanning the borders of East Amwell Township and which are vulnerable to the negative impacts of vegetation removal, soil compaction, decoupling of contiguous lands, proliferation of invasive species and drainage changes that accompany the PennEast pipeline project proximate to East Amwell Township; and

WHEREAS, the proposed route crosses protected properties and open space that were purchased with taxpayer funds, including taxpayers in East Amwell Township, under NJDEP Green Acres and New Jersey Department of Agriculture programs, Federal Farm and Ranch Protection Program Funds, Hunterdon County Open Space Funds, and lands of regional

significance that were purchased through neighboring Township Open Space and privately funded conservation programs as well as other properties that are subject to conservation easements and/or deed restricted against development, permanently damaging existing assets, features, and resources and potentially limiting future public use; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline route crosses the Alexauken Creek, a protected Category-1 stream as per NJAC 7:9B, Surface Water Quality Standards. Approximately one fifth of East Amwell Township is located in the Alexauken Creek Watershed, including the Village of Ringoes, upstream of the proposed location of the stream crossing. East Amwell Township partnered with West Amwell Township (lead agency), Delaware Township, the City of Lambertville, Hunterdon County Planning Board, Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Regional Planning Partnership, Sourland Planning Council, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association and Princeton Hydro, LLC in developing the Watershed Protection Plan for the Alexauken Creek in 2005 under a NJDEP grant, recognizing the significant regional value and need for protection of the stream's water quality and flows, agricultural and forested lands, important grassland habitats, and water supply resources of the watershed, including providing water to millions of downstream New Jersey residents who depend on the Delaware River; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline route crosses through the nearby Mt. Airy Historical District and the scenic vistas to the east of East Amwell Township; and

WHEREAS, Spectra operates an interstate natural gas transmission line through East Amwell Township, including through portions of the Sourland Mountain District, the Amwell Valley Agricultural District, and Hunterdon County's South County Park located in Ringoes, NJ; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission is now hearing comments on the proposed PennEast pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware River Basin Commission is now reviewing the proposed PennEast pipeline under Section 3.8 of the Delaware River Compact and implementing regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of East Amwell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey as follows:

1. The East Amwell Township Committee opposes the design and construction of the proposed PennEast pipeline passing through and under neighboring municipalities, including adjoining Delaware Township, West Amwell Township, in Hunterdon County and Hopewell Township in Mercer County. The construction and operation of the pipeline will damage regionally important streams and groundwater, existing farm

operations, wildlife habitat, forests and the natural features and resources they support, and the quality of life in the region connected to East Amwell Township.

2. The East Amwell Township Committee calls for a moratorium on any and all planning for the PennEast Pipeline and requests that any such project, if considered, must be subject to an environmental impact statement and comprehensive environmental analyses that include and consider the cumulative impacts of all natural gas pipeline projects and related compressor stations and pumping stations, existing or proposed, in the region by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Delaware River Basin Commission, the New Jersey Public Utility Commission, and any other regulatory authority.

3. The Resolution shall be distributed to:

   a. Governor Chris Christie
   b. U.S. Senator Robert Menendez
   c. U.S. Senator Cory Booker
   d. Congresswoman-elect Bonnie Watson Coleman
   e. Congressman Leonard Lance
   f. Congressman Rush Holt
   g. Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders
   h. State Senator Shirley Turner
   i. Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman
   j. Assemblyman Reed Gusciora
   k. Affected Townships of Hunterdon and Mercer Counties
   l. Federal Regulatory Energy Commission
   m. Delaware River Basin Commission
   n. New Jersey State League of Municipalities

By Order of the Township Committee,

Dart Sageser

Dart Sageser, Mayor

This is a true resolution adopted by the East Amwell Township Committee on December 11, 2014.

Teresa R Stahl

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk