

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

**ASSOCIATED
PUBLIC UTILITIES**

October 22, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Robert L. Freeman
State Representative
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
215 Northampton Street
Easton, PA 18042

Dear Representative Freeman:

Thank you for your September 29, 2015, letter regarding PennEast Pipeline Company LLC's (PennEast) PennEast Pipeline Project in Pennsylvania and New Jersey (Docket No. CP15-558-000).

Since October 10, 2014, PennEast has participated in the Commission's pre-filing review for the project in Docket No. PF15-1-000. During the pre-filing stage, PennEast revised the pipeline route several times to co-locate it along existing corridors where feasible, including segments of Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line's system and electric transmission lines. Recently, on September 24, 2015, PennEast filed its certificate application in Docket No. CP15-558-000. Commission staff is processing the application and will begin preparing a draft environmental impact statement (EIS), which is required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Commission staff will document its analysis and findings in the draft EIS, which will be published and distributed for a 45-day public review and comment period.

The draft EIS will consider the comments in your letter regarding the need for further evaluation of route alternatives that co-locate the proposed pipeline along existing utility corridors. The pipeline's construction and operational impacts on other sensitive resources, such as preserved farmland, public parks, wooded steep slopes, wetlands, and wildlife habitats, will also be fully vetted and analyzed in the draft EIS.

Once issued, comments on the draft EIS may be submitted to the Commission either in writing by filing them in the docket, or verbally at public comment meetings that will be held in the project area. After consideration of comments, a final EIS will be issued. The Commission will consider the findings of the final EIS, together with non-environmental issues, including the project's need, before making its decision on whether this proposal should be granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

-2-

I hope the above information has been helpful. If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Norman C. Bay

Norman C. Bay
Chairman

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