



Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

RE: FERC Docket CP15-558-000

August 25, 2016

Dear Secretary Bose:

I am writing to comment as an intervenor on behalf of Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space with respect to the PennEast Pipeline Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The timing of release of this document and the short period for review occurring during the time when many people are either away on vacation or busy in their farm fields leaves many affected landowners disenfranchised. It is clear, given the lack of supporting data and the repeated boilerplate comments that release of the DEIS was rushed, which suggests that FERC's intention is to give PennEast an advantage.

One does not have to delve far into the DEIS to realize there is a standard response to every concern about the possibility of permanent impacts to habitat, soils, streams, etc., namely "...most of these impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of PennEast's proposed mitigation and the additional recommendations in the draft EIS."

This shallow response does not address the nature and depth of the impacts of the construction and presence of the pipeline. It is impossible to assess those impacts in the absence of comprehensive environmental data. Yet, for instance, we note in Table G-13 in Appendix G (Federally and State Listed Species Potentially Occurring Within the Project Area) there are numerous statements that surveys are "pending", "ongoing", or "in progress." Please explain how one would assess the extent of the pipeline's impact to habitat if one doesn't know how and by what that habitat is being utilized and especially if species of concern are present. We know, for instance, that data exists from other sources that the proposed route of the pipeline would cut through mature forest on the Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain in Hopewell Township, NJ. This would have a serious impact on critical breeding habitat for several neotropical migratory songbirds, yet this is not addressed in the DEIS.



As I read through the DEIS it becomes increasingly clear that its release was premature at best. The document is incomplete and riddled with misinformation. The DEIS should be withdrawn until missing data is researched and added and inaccurate information is corrected.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia P. Sziber".

Patricia P. Sziber
Executive Director
Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space
P.O. Box 395
Pennington, NJ 08534