



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

MERCER COUNTY

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September 8, 2016

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

**RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Docket CP15-558-000
Proposed Gas Pipeline
PennEast Pipeline Company LLC
Hopewell Township, Mercer County**

Dear Ms. Bose,

Hopewell Township makes the following comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS):

1. Farmland Soils and Tile Drains

It is possible for PennEast to identify some tile drain locations on farmland at this time through acquisition of publically available mapping through the NRCS and the County Soil Conservation Districts. Because this mapping is available and because this research is not dependent upon property access, this research effort should be performed prior to the issuance of the DEIS.

2. Need

The DEIS fails to consider alternatives which use storage to address peak demand. Such alternatives could eliminate need for this Penneast pipeline.

The PennEast partner, Elizabethtown Gas, that serves Hopewell Township has presented no master plans to provide an increased level of natural gas service to Hopewell Township. Statements by PennEast that the proposed PennEast pipeline will provide natural gas locally is not true in Hopewell Township.

These comments again demonstrate that NEPA has not been complied with as all environmental information has not been made available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made. . . [and] [t]he information must be of high quality." 40 C.F.R. 1500.1(b). Further the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations on unavailable information are clear and if the information is obtainable and relevant to the project the agency must wait and obtain the information. 40 C.F.R. 1502.22.

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
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Page 2 of 2

Hopewell Township requests that FERC withdraw the DEIS.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. Kuchinski, Mayor
Hopewell Township

C: Hopewell Township Committee
Steven P. Goodell, Esquire
Governor Chris Christie
Senator Robert Menendez
Senator Cory Booker
Senator Shirley Turner
Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman
Assemblywoman Elizabeth Maher Muoio
Assemblyman Reed Gusciora
Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Robert Martin, NJDEP Commissioner
John Gray, NJDEP Deputy Chief of Staff
Judith A. Enck, USEPA Region 2 Administrator
John Eddins, ACHP