

PF15-1

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION
2015 SEP 25 P 12:06
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

September 17, 2015

Kimberly D. Rose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Docket No. PF15-1
Penn East Pipeline
Lehigh Township

Dear Secretary Rose:

The Board of Supervisors and residents of Lehigh Township have just learned that the path of the proposed pipeline will now run through Lehigh Township. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors and the residents of Lehigh Township object to the placement of the pipeline in Lehigh Township. The Township has implemented many restrictions through our Zoning Ordinance, SALDO and building codes to help protect our environmentally sensitive areas, including our protected woodlands and waterways. In addition, these regulations are designed to protect the wildlife, which thrive in these natural areas.

The pipeline, as recently proposed, will carve through Lehigh Township at the base of the Blue Mountain Ridge. In all likelihood, it will cause damage to the environment, including, our streams, woodlands and our environmentally sensitive areas. Widespread clear cutting of the timber will cause erosion, which we believe will damage the water table. The long term loss to the Township will also be seen in land values, which in turn will affect our taxes. We do not feel FERC has taken these issues into consideration up to this point.

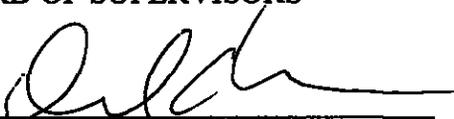
For the above stated reasons, the Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors opposes the construction of this pipeline through our Township. We respectfully urge you to reconsider the

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need for the pipeline, as well as the current route of the pipeline and eliminate it from Lehigh Township.

**LEHIGH TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BY: 
Darryl Snover, Chairman**

**cc: Lawrence Godlaskey, Director of Government Affairs
Marco Calderon, Business Development Manager
UGI Energy Services
Suite 2C01
One Meridian Boulevard
Wyomissing, PA 19610**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEHIGH TOWNSHIP,
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-7

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED PENN EAST PIPELINE
THROUGH LEHIGH TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, Penn East Pipeline Company, LLC, a joint project of AGL Resources, NM Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of New Jersey Resources, South Jersey Industries, and UM Energy Services, a subsidiary of MI Corporation, propose the construction of a new pipeline for the transfer and deliver of natural gas generated by deep well "fracking" in areas of Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline is approximately one hundred and eight (108) miles of thirty-six inch (36") buried pipe crossing parts of Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania and Huterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, as currently proposed, the pipeline cuts through Lehigh Township, Northampton County, causing or contributing to the following:

1. The proposed route impacts pristine woods and forests causing damage to wildlife and plant life; and
2. Said removal of trees and vegetation along creeks, streams and waterways will result in the loss of sediment filtration, thereby causing sediment buildup in these waterways and the waterways that flow in Northampton County, a source of drinking water; and
3. The proposed route may cross properties that were purchased with County and Township Open Space Funds, as well as other properties that are subject to conservation easements and/or deed restricted against development; and
4. The taxpayers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Northampton County, Lehigh Township as well as foundations and individual donors and farmers and landowners have invested to permanently preserve these properties in perpetuity; and
5. The proposed route may impact Township owned open space, privately held open space, and scenic vistas; and
6. The proposed route and the construction of pump stations along the way will impact ground water that Lehigh Township residents depend on for wetlands, springs, vernal ponds valued by residents and visitors, of Lehigh Township's way of life, and are irreplaceable; and

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7. **The proposed route of the pipeline may invade habitats of species protected by the Endangered Species Act, such as eagles, the wood turtle, the long tailed salamander, and various plants and other animals protected by federal and state law; and**

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline will cause damage to Lehigh Township residents by lowering property values, raising health concerns, raising safety concerns, impacting farms and residences, and generally degrading their quality of life and the historic, environmental and cultural resources they have dedicated themselves to protecting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS of the Township of Lehigh, Northampton County, Pennsylvania as follows:

1. **The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors does hereby object to the design an construction of a 36 inch pipeline passing through and under Lehigh Township, Northampton County. The construction and operation of the pipeline will significantly damage protected streams, wildlife habitat, existing farm operations, and the quality of life in Lehigh Township.**
2. **The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors calls for a moratorium on any and all planning for the Penn East Pipeline and requests that any such project, if approved, be removed from the pristine reaches of Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania.**
3. **The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors seeks the cooperation of other similarly located and affected municipalities, asking that all nearby affected municipalities adopt a similar resolution.**
4. **The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors adopts, and calls upon similarly situated municipalities to adopt a resolution authorizing each municipality to join together to enter their appearance in any proceeding before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and any other regulatory authority, so that by the strength of numbers they may successfully oppose the Penn East Pipeline project and have the ability to cause the relocation or termination of the project so as to prevent environmental degradation and to project the environment.**
5. **The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors will act as an Intervener and/or Objector to the proposed Penn East Pipeline.**
6. **Working with its non-profit partners, local groups, and other municipalities, the Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors will exercise careful fiscal oversight in this opposition process.**

7. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors recognizes that the pipeline could be beneficial to society through potentially lower natural gas prices in the national economy, though Lehigh Township will not currently benefit from any of the natural gas being transported through this pipeline. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors determine that the damage to the Township outweighs any benefit the Township will gain.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 1th day of September, 2015.

ATTEST:


Secretary

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP

BY:


Darryl Snover, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

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