



United States Department of Agriculture

ORIGINAL

February 22, 2016

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

FILED  
 SECRETARY OF THE  
 COMMISSION

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FEDERAL ENERGY  
 REGULATORY COMMISSION

Re: Penneast Pipeline Company's Penneast Project, Docket No. CP15-558

Based on the information provided, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is unable to make a definitive determination regarding potential impacts of the proposed Penneast Project on Pennsylvania NRCS easement holdings. However, it appears that **5 NRCS easement holdings may be impacted**. With this letter, I am submitting a copy of Pennsylvania NRCS's easement locations (see attached GIS shapefiles). I ask that you utilize the information to determine if the proposed project will potentially impact NRCS easement holdings. If you are not able to complete this determination, NRCS is requesting GIS shapefiles for the Penneast Project so that we can evaluate the potential for impacts on NRCS acquired easement holdings. If we receive no response from you, we will assume you have verified that the Penneast Project will not impact any NRCS acquired easement holdings.

Finally, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Section 1508.5, if it is determined that any NRCS acquired easement holdings will be impacted, NRCS formally requests that NRCS be granted cooperating agency status in the completion of the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for the Penneast Project to ensure that the impact of Penneast Project on NRCS acquired easement holdings is fully and adequately considered.

Thank you for your timely assistance and cooperation with this request. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Gwendolyn Crews on my staff at [Gwendolyn.crews@pa.usda.gov](mailto:Gwendolyn.crews@pa.usda.gov) or by phone at 717-237-2218.

Sincerely,

Denise Coleman  
 State Conservationist

Cc: Andree DuVarney, National Environmental Coordinator, USDA-NRCS  
 Don Riley, Ecologist USDA-NRCS  
 Gary Smith, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations, USDA-NRCS  
 Hathaway Jones, Easement Management Analyst, USDA-NRCS

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