



This comment is endorsed by the Sourland Conservancy and is being submitted on behalf of the Conservancy, an intervenor in this process:

My name is James T. Andrews. I am commenting on docket CP15-558-000 for the PennEast Draft Environmental Impact (PDEI) statement as a trustee of the Sourland Conservancy, the Hopewell Township representative to the Sourland Alliance and a resident of Hopewell Township.

The proposed route of the PennEast pipeline shares or runs closely parallel to much of the existing powerline right-of-way (ROW) as it passes near Lambertville through West Amwell. At mile 102.8 this route passes between the reservoir supplying water to the city of Lambertville and the water treatment facility associated with it. While the proposed depth of the PennEast pipeline is 10 feet, the water main is only 4 feet deep. This section is proposed to use an open trench to lay the gas pipeline, which will sever the water main if built as planned. There is no discussion in the PDEI of a horizontal directional drilled (HDD) tunnel under the water main.

The geology of this area consists of a thick layer of volcanic diabase that is often exposed at the surface or only under a thin layer of soil. Diabase or trap rock is a brittle, hard rock often used for roadway construction. This diabase will need blasting to create a trench to bury the proposed pipeline. The right of way is less than 200 feet from the dam holding back the water in the reservoir. The blasting shock waves travel strongly through this diabase and could easily damage the dam. Diabase conducts sound and shock quite well. The attempted HDD in nearby Montgomery, NJ kept residents

awake for miles around. Lambertville is only 1200 feet away from the ROW near the dam. Heritage Village apartment complex is only 1600 feet away from the ROW.

Swan Creek exits the reservoir into a valley with steep walls. This valley flows directly into the city of Lambertville. The construction of the pipeline near this dam will be a real hazard to the residents of Lambertville. A failure of the dam would be catastrophic.

The Environmental Impact Statement has no discussion of any special concerns in this area even though it is so close to Lambertville and the reservoir. The pipeline, its construction and the blasting that it would require would have significant risk and impact on the public drinking supply for the city of Lambertville and the dam that holds back Swan Creek Reservoir and Swan Creek. The dam and reservoir are only about 200 feet east of the proposed route of the pipeline. The water treatment facility is only 300-400 feet west of the proposed route. The PennEast pipeline will need to cross under the water supply pipelines and very near the dam. The shock waves from blasting for an open trench or the pounding of HDD so near this moderate sized dam with a large reservoir behind it and just up steam from the City of Lambertville is a concern. The noise from the blasting or pounding of the HDD will be disrupting to the daily life of everyone in Lambertville and nearby. Blasting is likely to disrupt the water supply for homes that use wells for water.



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