

Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Berks Gas Truth
Sourland Conservancy
Holland Township Citizens Against the Pipeline
Clean Water Action (NJ)
Environment New Jersey
Sierra Club New Jersey
Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines
West Amwell Citizens Against the Pipeline
Alexandria Twp Citizens Against the Pipeline
City of Lambertville Coalition Against the Pipeline
Kingwood Twp Citizens Against the Pipeline
Pipeline Safety Coalition
Delaware Township Citizens Against the Pipeline
Penn Environment
Save Carbon County
West Amwell Township Environmental Commission
Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
Food and Water Watch, Lehigh Valley
Durham CCAP
Peace Youth
HALT PennEast

August 1, 2016

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

Re: PennEast Pipeline Project hearing process (CP15-558)

Ms. Bose:

- We protest the selection of only 45 days over the highest vacation months of the year for public review and comment on the 1,174 page Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the PennEast Pipeline proposal – we deserve a minimum of 120 days for review and comment on this project which will have such profound and devastating impacts on our communities.
- We protest the scheduling of public hearings that are just 24/25/26 days into the already deficient comment period thereby truncating even further the time in which we have to review and comment on the 1,174 page document to a mere 24 days.

- We protest the failure to select and plan for a public hearing format designed to divide our community and that denies us the opportunity to hear from, learn from and support one another in the delivery of our comments.
- We protest the selection of hearing locations that are difficult to find, reach and where parking and other issues complicate the ability of people to easily participate.
- We protest the failure of FERC to clearly identify the comment period deadline, thereby creating additional confusion for communities already being rushed through this process.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) issued on July 22 is an 1,174 page document for a 115 mile project with serious and irreparable impacts for which many in our community would forcibly lose their land; which would inflict economic, business and job losses; which would inflict irreversible environmental and recreational damage on our communities who cherish these rights; would threaten the future of our children and the health and safety of every member of our community. Forty-five days over the height of the vacation season of our region is unacceptable as the identified comment period for the DEIS released for the PennEast Pipeline project. We deserve a minimum of 120 days.

Given the selection of hearing dates that begin just 24 days into the already deficient time period for comments, you are not really giving our communities even the minimal 45 days to review and comment on the DEIS; in reality you are expecting us to undertake our review and craft our comment in just a little over 3 weeks. This is not the fair opportunity for public comment NEPA envisions nor that we should be entitled to. The public hearings should be rescheduled to be later in time, ideally 100 days into a 120 day comment period in order to ensure ample opportunity for people to review the DEIS, draft verbal comment, and for the community to benefit from the information provided by others during the public hearings in the crafting of their final written comments to be submitted by the 120 day mark.

The hearing schedule and locations proposed are untenable and need revision. While it is true that we have been calling for 7 separate hearings from the DRBC across the region and the scheduling of 6 hearings seems to be obviously in response to that request – it is not just the number of hearings that matters; time, timing, location and accessibility matter too. You continue to select locations that are difficult to access, difficult for parking, small in size so as to artificially limit attendance, and in this case are scheduled 24/25/26 days into the already truncated public comment period scheduled.

In addition, there needs to be absolute clarity over the end of the comment period. Original DEIS documents said the comment period ends on September 5, later individuals saw the date of September 12, and still others received the message from FERC that it would be September 6. When setting a comment deadline accuracy matters as we are sure FERC would not forgive a late filing by any of us on a docket or in a litigation context, therefore FERC should hold itself to the same standard.

In addition, there is confusion regarding the hearing format with the current structure being one that divides the community and denies us the ability to learn from and support one another during the delivery of testimony. The hearing format is important for people to understand in order to be able to prepare. Please provide immediate, clear and detailed information on the format of the

hearings including the format of the meeting, the amount of time folks will have to speak, whether any portion of the hearing will be in a group setting or with individuals speaking to a stenographer in a separate room etc. If the format is to solely be individuals sitting with stenographers how many stenographers will be available at any given time, will there be an opportunity to hear the testimony of others, how will FERC ensure that the stenographer will be able to clearly hear what is being said without being confused by the offering of testimony to another stenographer nearby or conversation happening amongst those who are waiting. Please also let us know if there will be other agencies, such as the Army Corps sitting in at the hearings and if so how will they be able to benefit from all of the testimony given if it is being given simultaneously by multiple individuals at once.

Respectfully submitted,

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper on behalf of Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Karen Feridun, Founder/Executive Director on behalf of Berks Gas Truth
Caroline Katmann, Executive Director on behalf of Sourland Conservancy
Lorraine Crown, on behalf of Holland Township Citizens Against the Pipeline
David Pringle, NJ Campaign Director, on behalf of Clean Water Action
Doug O'Malley, Executive Director, on behalf of Environment New Jersey
Jeff Tittle, Executive Director, on behalf of NJ Sierra Club
Arianne Elinich, Founder, on behalf of Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipelines
Michael Spille, Trustee, on behalf of West Amwell Citizens Against the Pipeline
Jacqueline Freedman on behalf of Alexandria Twp Citizens Against the Pipeline
Sue Begent on behalf of City of Lambertville Coalition Against the Pipeline
Maureen Syrnick on behalf of Kingwood Twp Citizens Against the Pipeline
Lynda Farrell, Executive Director on behalf of Pipeline Safety Coalition
Debra Bradley, Co-director, on behalf of Delaware Township Citizens Against the Pipeline
Adam Garber, Field Director, on behalf of PennEnvironment
Linda Christman on behalf of Save Carbon County
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Jim Vogt, President, on behalf of Aquashicola/ Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
Tara Zrinski, Local Coordinator, Food and Water Watch, Lehigh Valley
Ann Marshall on behalf of Durham CCAP
Tina Venini on behalf of Peace-Youth
Laura Wilson, President, on behalf of HALT PennEast