

May 31, 2016

Scott Williamson
Waterways & Wetlands Program
DEP South Central Region
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Email: scwilliams@pa.gov

Dear Mr. Williamson,

As a citizen of South Londonderry Township, Lebanon County Pennsylvania, I am writing to request that you schedule a public hearing on Transcontinental Pipe Line Company's (Transco) application for water obstruction and encroachment permits for its proposed Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline (FERC Docket: CP15-138).

Transco has proposed to construct the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project, creating a new right of way corridor of approximately 184 miles in Pennsylvania, which includes a 28-mile route in Lebanon County. This pipeline would bisect Lebanon County from north to south crossing numerous water bodies and causing significant impacts on numerous exceptional value (EV) wetlands and high-quality watersheds. The DEP has an obligation to protect these sensitive ecological resources under Art. I, Sec. 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Before it can issue permits for a project of this magnitude, the DEP must first provide citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions on the record at a public hearing.

The Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force executive summary identified "recommendations of the highest priority for the Commonwealth" that included amplifying and engaging in meaningful public participation. Holding a public hearing for these permits will show the public that inclusion and participation is indeed "of the highest priority" for the DEP.

In Lebanon County, proposed stream crossings include the Swatara, Quittapahilla, and Conewago, plus numerous tributaries and wetlands. None of the crossings will be without negative consequences as Williams does not plan to drill under any of these creeks but will cut an open trench through them to lay the pipe beneath the stream bed. Blasting through rock might even be needed in some of the streams.

Cumulative impacts of the proposed Atlantic Sunrise project must be considered due to the immense scope of this project. Construction of the Atlantic Sunrise will contribute to erosion and sediment runoff not only through the construction of pipeline stream crossings, but also through increased runoff created by permanent clearing of riparian buffers and also permanent and temporary clearing of trees in adjacent forested areas. This is in direct conflict with goals needed to achieve agreements already in place to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

As a result of analyzing pipeline construction impacts to water bodies and wetlands, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation denied the water quality certification for the Constitution Pipeline, legally prohibiting the building of the pipeline in New York. Let us

follow their lead. I urge your office to schedule a public hearing on these questions, so that the public can voice its concerns and have its questions addressed by PA-DEP and Transco.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jane T. Popko

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Our concerns for this project and reason for the hearing request include the following:

- At last review of stream crossing plans, Transco does not intend to use HDD (horizontal directional drilling) beneath any of the streams and wetlands in Lebanon County, but will instead use environmentally damaging open trench methods to install the pipeline. Stream crossings include the Swatara Creek, Conewago Creek, and Quittapahilla Creek, all of which have been the subject of restoration efforts (and in some cases, state financial investment) by local organizations in order to improve water quality.
- Construction of the Atlantic Sunrise will contribute to erosion and sediment runoff not only through the construction of pipeline stream crossings, but also through increased runoff created by permanent clearing of riparian buffers and also permanent and temporary clearing of trees in adjacent forested areas.

For Lebanon and Lancaster County, send comments to: Scott Williamson, Waterways & Wetlands Program, DEP South Central Region, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110, (717) 705-4799, scwilliams@pa.gov

