

Megan Lehman, Environmental Community Relations Specialist
Department of Environmental Protection |
The Office of Communications
208 West Third Street Suite 101 | Williamsport PA 17701

RE: Letter of Support for Atlantic Sunrise Transcontinental Pipeline, June 13, 20167

Requesting PA DEP Approval for

- **Chapter 105 – Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permits and**
- **Chapter 102 – Erosion & Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-2)**

Dear Staff:

I strongly support approval of the Pennsylvania DEP Chapter 2 and Chapter 5 permits for Water Obstruction and Encroachment and Erosion and Sediment Control (ESCGP-2) for the Williams Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project. This company has worked with DEP and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for over 24 months to meet the rigorous requirements to construct this important pipeline for southeastern Pennsylvania. Williams has made more than 400 modifications of the pipeline route and now has 25% of that route on existing right-of-ways.

FERC has now gone on record that the construction of the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline will not negatively impact **water quality** or supply during or after construction. Full-time Environmental Inspectors will oversee construction activities to ensure compliance with required environmental mitigation measures.

Williams has strived to avoid and minimize impacts to **wetlands** through in-field routing adjustments and by reducing the Project limits of disturbance where possible. There will no loss of wetland acreage and wetlands within the permanent ROW will simply be converted from forested and PSS vegetation to PEM and PSS vegetation types. PennDot makes wetland mitigation a normal environmental practice while constructing new roads without any adverse impact. Williams will insure that there is no significant adverse impact to any wetlands along the pipeline construction route by enhancing or creating new wetlands as required by DEP and FERC.

The Williams ASP route will have no adverse impact on any **watersheds** it transverses. Their Environmental Construction Plan will have almost no impact to the Chesapeake Bay. Their adjusted design for watercourse and wetland crossings will produce no significant impact to the environment to both the Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Environmental Impact Statement concluded: "Given the impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures proposed by Transco, as well as our recommendations, we conclude that the construction and operation of the Project would not have a significant adverse effect on wildlife, including migratory birds." (ES-8). And the US Fish and Wildlife service has concluded it will not have any adverse impact on bald eagles or the Bog Turtle.

Actually, **pipelines have a positive effect on wildlife habitat** as it opens new natural food-plots for deer and turkey after replanting and it provides wonderful habitat for both species as well as songbirds. I have successfully deer hunted most of my life on pipelines in McKean and Tioga Counties. It is important to point out that it also affords a critical place to permit handicapped hunters both young and old a better place to hunt than walking through forests. This is a photo of our son who harvested his first deer on a pipeline near Mansfield, Pennsylvania. I constructed a special stand for Fred to sit-in

while waiting for his deer to appear. Look closely and you will see his metal knee braces under his orange hunting clothes. This pipeline is on the hill above the Mansfield Walmart and it continued down under a driveway where we parked and crossed many cornfields on its way south to Blossburg. Pipelines are a wonderful friend to wildlife and to hunters.

Fred Goff's 1st Deer Harvested, 1986



Runoff will have no negative impact from this Williams/Transco pipeline as the construction route will be restored to original contours and revegetated like never before. Just look at this photo and you can see the incredible revegetation once the pipeline construction is completed. It actually provides better runoff protection than a bare forested floor.

Agricultural impacts to farmland is only a temporary thing and crop production and grazing are available for normal use within weeks after construction.

For these reasons stated above, I am asking DEP and Governor Wolf to approve the DEP Chapter 102 and 105 permits immediately and get this critical infrastructure project completed as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Dr. Dennis Wydra (retired Education Professor, Mansfield University)
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