



Borton
Lawson

ENGINEERING
ARCHITECTURE

June 13, 2017

PA Department of Environmental Protection
North-Central Regional Office
Waterways and Wetlands Program
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Williamsport, PA 17701
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PA Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
Waterways and Wetlands Program
2 Public Square
Wilks-Barre, PA 18701
RA-EPWW-NERO@PA.GOV

RE: Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project, Public Comment

Dear Department of Environmental Protection:

My name is Chris McCue, PE, Vice President of Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc. Borton Lawson is a 160 person engineering firm with offices in Wilkes Barre, Bethlehem and Pittsburgh. For the past 9 years we have provided engineering and environmental consulting services for natural gas industry clients, including Williams. During this time we have worked with numerous facets of the Williams' organization, and have found their performance and standards related to design practices, environmental compliance and safety to be exemplary.

On behalf of Borton Lawson Engineering, Inc, we respectfully request that the Department work to expedite the review and approval of the Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 Permit applications for the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project for the following reasons;

- FERC issued its final EIS for the project in December 2016, concluding that environmental impacts would be reduced to "less than significant levels" with the implementation of mitigation measures proposed for the project.
- Williams has made adjustments to more than half the route to address concerns identified by landowners, public officials and permitting agencies. This collaborative approach demonstrates their desire to balance the needs of the environment. Williams has demonstrated its commitment to environmental stewardship by voluntarily funding more than \$2.5 million in local conservation projects, above and beyond the mitigation measures required by Chapter 102 and 105 permits.
- Williams has diligently been working with the Department, providing the data needed to review and approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permits, including water quality analyses, wetland studies, cultural and archeological studies, best management practices, wildlife protection measures, minimization of impacts to agricultural lands, and plans for full time environmental monitoring during construction. Williams desires to construct this project in full compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Bethlehem
Pittsburgh
State College
Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE

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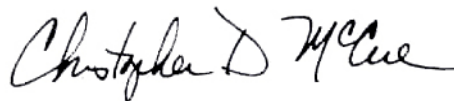
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- The Atlantic Sunrise project is critical to the successful development of the Marcellus area, due to the fact there is limited takeaway capacity available to transport gas to areas of Pennsylvania and the United States that need affordable clean energy alternatives. Further delays in pipeline infrastructure will only risk further migration of economic investments to other areas of the Country such as the Permian Basin in Texas, where existing infrastructure is in place. Williams' Atlantic Sunrise is a privately funded project which will directly benefit 10 Pennsylvania counties. According to Penn State University, the project will create approximately 2,300 local jobs and generate \$1.6 billion in the project area.
- Borton Lawson is an example of a local company successfully supporting the natural gas industry, which in turn provides family sustaining jobs and careers. At present, we employ approximately 40 professionals working directly for the natural gas industry. These professionals include environmental scientists, engineers, marketing professionals, accounting professionals, and administrative positions. Collectively, these jobs translate to approximately \$2.5 to \$3 million in local salaries and benefits. These employees live in numerous regional Counties and directly support the local economy. Our company has witnessed a significant decrease in natural gas development in the past 2 years, with a significant portion of that decrease being associated with inadequate infrastructure in place necessary to connect completed well sites. We can not wait any longer to approve these critical infrastructure projects and risk losing our local jobs to other regions of the Country.

For the reasons above, we respectfully request the Department review and approve the Atlantic Sunrise Chapter 102 and 105 permits in an expedited fashion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris McCue, PE
Vice President