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WATERWAYS & WETLANDS

PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
North Central Regional Office
Waterways and Wetland Program
208 W. 3rd Street, Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701

I am writing to ask the PA DEP to deny permits for the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline project based upon Chapters 102 (Erosion and Sediment) and 105 (Wetland damage):

- Impact on the Chesapeake Bay clean-up: increased sediment from storm water run-off, erosion, flooding and soil compaction.
- Forest fragmentation, destruction of riparian vegetation buffers.
- Aquifer contamination, water supply degradation.
- Air quality degradation.
- Destruction of wildlife habitat; impact on threatened/endangered species and native plants.

The project will cause long-term (possibly permanent) damage to (327) streams and fragile water bodies in Pennsylvania. It will cross multiple public drinking water supply sources, watersheds and wetlands, high quality streams, exceptional value streams, and trout streams. The (195) miles of pipeline right-of-way, and additional miles of access roads, will cut across forests. The permanent conversion of forests to open land will fragment important habitat, will result in increased runoff, and will compromise the area's resilience to flooding.

Pennsylvania is implementing a clean-up plan for the Chesapeake watershed to reduce pollution runoff. However, Pennsylvania is significantly behind target for sediment and phosphorus & nitrogen reductions. Clear-cutting hundreds of thousands of trees, destroying riparian vegetation, trench construction, and stream bed disturbances will contribute to a higher volume of pollutants that flow into the Bay from Pennsylvania.

The project will include compressor stations and thus far, there has been no analysis or disclosure of the hazardous air pollutants from compressor stations. Such pollutants would include benzene, formaldehyde and toluene. The compressor stations will be located in or near areas which currently do not meet national ambient air quality standards for ozone and fine particulates. Lancaster County's air quality ranks among the worst in the nation.

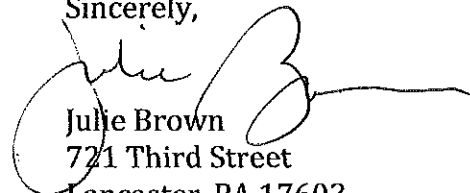
Landowners along the pipeline route will not only be impacted by lower property values, granting Eminent Domain to Transco-Williams will limit the Landowners' rights to protect and preserve their land, including the elimination of conservation

easements. Landowners will also assume the horrific risks of a pipeline explosion; Transco-Williams has a documented history of safety violations and accidents.

There are many critical environment-related issues which are not addressed in the DEIS; including the final pipeline route, mitigation plans, methods for crossing streams, DEP permits & special conditions, air quality measurements, and pipeline maintenance plans & schedules. Why were geologists from Pennsylvania not used for the field research and studies? Why would DEP trust the geological reports issued by the pipeline company?

The Atlantic Sunrise pipeline is not a necessary infrastructure project. It would only serve as a convenient and lucrative short-cut to existing pipelines that provide ample capacity for the gas industry's needs.

Sincerely,



Julie Brown
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