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Senate of Pennsylvania

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October 12, 2021

Domenic Rocco, Director
Regional Permit Coordination Office
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
400 Market Street
10th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Submitted via email to: ra-epregionalpermit@pa.gov

RE: Public Comment Period, Permit Application Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company
(Transco) Regional Energy Access Extension

Dear Mr. Rocco,

I respectfully request an extension of the public comment period for the three water quality permit applications associated with the Transcontinental Pipeline Company's Regional Energy Access Extension (REAE) pipeline and that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) hold public hearings in each county impacted by this project.

The DEP provided notice for a 30-day comment period on these highly-technical applications in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on September 18, 2021, meaning comments are due next week (October 18). These three permit authorizations currently under consideration – erosion and sediment control (Chapter 102), water obstructions and encroachment (Chapter 105), and state water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act – are critical to protecting water quality in Pennsylvania. Thirty days is just not enough time for the public to thoroughly review the applications in detail and offer informed and meaningful feedback on them.

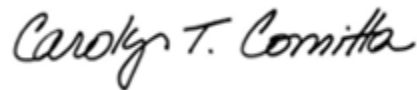
Furthermore, the Transco REAE pipeline project will extend across a sizeable area of the Commonwealth, including three DEP regions and seven counties, including six in the Delaware River watershed. In addition to my home county of Chester, it will impact Delaware, Bucks, Northampton, Monroe, and Luzerne counties, as well as York County in the Susquehanna River basin. In turn, many of the streams and wetlands the proposed pipeline project crosses are subject

to special protections as High Quality or Exceptional Value waterways. As you know, these are crucial to the environmental, economic, and public health of our communities.

Given the size and scope of this pipeline project, the number, and type of permit applications being considered, the number of streams crossed, the number of communities and counties impacted, and our recent and ongoing issues with pipeline expansion projects in Chester County and the surrounding region, I respectfully request that the public comment period be extended and that public hearings be held in impacted communities here and across the Commonwealth.

Simply put, the public deserves ample time and opportunity to review, understand, and weigh in on issues potentially impacting water quality. Extending the public comment period and holding hearings in impacted counties and communities will help ensure every voice is heard and every concern is given due consideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn T. Comitta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Comitta
State Senator – 19th District

CC: DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell
Greg Kauffman, DEP Legislative Director