

PENNSYLVANIA CAMPAIGN FOR CLEAN WATER

Exceptional Value Workgroup
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October 12, 2022

Submitted via email: <mailto:RA-EPREGIONALPERMIT@pa.gov>

Re: Deny Transco REAE Chapter 102 and 105 permits that would cut across Exceptional Value and High Quality Watersheds

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water's Exceptional Value Workgroup (CCWEV), we are writing to express our concern with the Chapter 102 and 105 Transco pipeline application to build and expand yet another pipeline adjacent the Transco corridor which would largely widen and cut across 114 Exceptional Value wetlands, 77 bodies of water supporting cold water fisheries, 39 High Quality streams, 2 Exceptional Value streams, 17 Class A Wild Trout Streams, 57 waterbodies with naturally reproducing trout, and 297 acres of forests. As a [recent report from Our Pocono Waters](#) states, our rivers and streams provide value for our communities — environmental, social, and economic benefits to our communities. Long term thinking must be employed as we see the repeated cuts proposed by the fracked gas industry. DEP is in its duty has the power with this application to simply say no to these proposed expansions and anti-degradation standards require it.

Our work group attended the one and only hearing that was held on Yom Kippur (the holiest of Jewish holidays) and also understand that an extension request by Delaware Riverkeeper Network was denied by DEP. This request was denied despite multiple extensions and deficiency letters to the pipeline applicant over the last two years. Our coalition members have submitted substantive comment on the harms this pipeline would inflict from recent application materials submitted and we urge you now to use the power and obligation you have to protect Pennsylvania's freshwater resources to deny the Chapter 102 and 105 application. Please see joint comment submitted by Pennfuture, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Clean Air Council, Brodhead Watershed Association, Aquashicola/Pohopoca Watershed Conservancy, and Tobyhanna Tunkhannock Watershed Association for more details on just some of the discrepancies and deficiencies in the current Transco application that were open for expedited comment. DEP should not be eager to approve these deficient applications as they stand and a denial is really the only option we can possibly see with the proposed materials we have reviewed and the history of pipeline damage we have seen since the frack boom has begun, especially as it relates thru HQ and EV watersheds and the climate change impacts to water resources the expansion will inflict into perpetuity.

The Pennsylvania Campaign for Clean Water (Campaign) is a coalition of over 180 environmental, conservation, sporting, and religious groups from all corners of the state that speaks in one voice in support of federal and state policies to protect and restore Pennsylvania's water resources. The Exceptional Value workgroup focuses on protection of the Commonwealth's highest quality streams.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Faith Zerbe
CCW Exceptional Value Co-Chair
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Eric Harder
CCW Exceptional Value Co-Chair
Youghiogheny Riverkeeper