

June 26, 2016

Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
South-Central Regional Office  
Waterways and Wetland Programs  
909 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17710

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~~Water~~  
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~~DEP~~

I am writing to express my opposition to the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project for the following environmental reasons:

- 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.
- Acquifer 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 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. FERC's 'Draft Environmental Impact Study' (DEIS) does not provide an analysis of the mitigation that will be necessary for the Commonwealth to meet its commitment to the Chesapeake watershed. Therefore, Transco-Williams should be required to provide DEP with a mitigation plan.

Transco-Williams is proposing to use trenchless construction at only (5) crossings: Susquehanna River (2 times), Tunkhannock Creek, Conestoga River and Swatara Creek. Transco-Williams should be required to provide DEP with an analysis of why other streams and water bodies along the route (particularly special protection waters) cannot be crossed using trenchless construction methods.

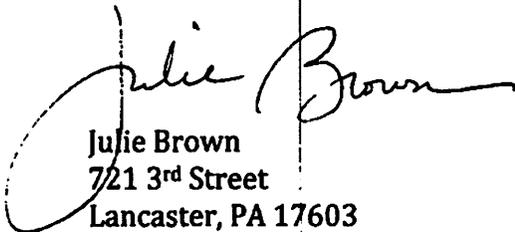
The project will include compressor stations and thus far, there has been no analysis or disclosure of the hazardous air pollutants from compressor stations. Such pollutants would include benzene, formaldehyde and toluene. The compressor stations will be located in or near areas which currently do not 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. These issues should be thoroughly addressed by DEP before issuing the final State permits.

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

Sincerely,



Julie Brown  
721 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603

cc: Governor Tom Wolf



## Contacts

# Brown, Julie

### General

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### Notes

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