



Lebanon pipeline awareness

1594 Cumberland Street, Ste. 194
Lebanon, PA 17042-4532

May 31, 2016

Scott Williamson
Waterways & Wetlands Program
DEP Southcentral Region
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

by electronic mail and first class mail

Dear Mr. Williamson:

Lebanon Pipeline Awareness, a nonprofit grassroots organization based in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, requests that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection schedules a public hearing for Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company's (Transco) application for water obstruction and encroachment permits for its proposed Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline (FERC Docket: CP15-138).

In addition, since most people with concerns on this important issue are working citizens, we request an extension of the current comment period by 60 days to allow a more reasonable time to review the application material and provide comments. We also ask that to provide the optimal opportunity for public input, public hearings are held in each county where construction has been proposed for the Atlantic Sunrise project. These individual county hearings and the extension of the comment period would help to meet the recommendation of the Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force, as noted under public participation, to "consider public input into the planning, construction and operation of pipelines and associated infrastructure."

Transco has proposed to construct the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project, which would create a new right of way corridor of approximately 184 miles in Pennsylvania, including a 28-mile route in Lebanon County. This new pipeline corridor would bisect Lebanon County from north to south, crossing through several streams and wetlands along its path. As this is a high pressure, 42-inch natural gas transmission line, the environmental impacts to our county streams and wetlands will be both noticeable and severe.

Our concerns for this project and reason for the hearing request include the following:

- At last review of stream crossing plans, Transco does not intend to use HDD (horizontal directional drilling) beneath any of the streams and wetlands in Lebanon County, but will instead use environmentally damaging open trench methods to install the pipeline. Stream crossings include the Swatara Creek, Conewago Creek, and Quittapahilla Creek, all of which have been the subject of restoration efforts (and in some cases, state financial investment) by local organizations in order to improve water quality.

- Construction of the Atlantic Sunrise will contribute to erosion and sediment runoff not only through the construction of pipeline stream crossings, but also through increased runoff created by permanent clearing of riparian buffers and also permanent and temporary clearing of trees in adjacent forested areas.
- Cumulative impacts of the proposed Atlantic Sunrise project must be considered due to the immense scope of this project. Construction and the resultant erosion are in direct conflict with goals needed to be achieved for agreements already in place to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Please know that the above reasons represent only some of our apprehensions for this project. In addition, we are certain there are other concerns that individual citizens will bring to the discussion when given the opportunity.

Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution affords our state's citizens the "right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment." Under this section of the constitution, the state is directed to "conserve and maintain" our "public natural resources," which are "common property of all the people." For this reason, the people of Pennsylvania must be granted the opportunity to voice their opinions at a public hearing for Transco's application for water obstruction and encroachment permits.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to the opportunity to express our concerns at a future hearing.

Sincerely,

Ann Pinca

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Cc: Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania DEP
The Honorable Mike Folmer
The Honorable Russ Diamond
The Honorable Mauree Gingrich
The Honorable Sue Helm