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WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

May 27, 2016
David Garg
Waterways & Wetlands Program Manager
DEP Northcentral Region
208 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Dear David Garg:

I am writing to ask that you hold a public hearing on Transcontinental Pipe Line Company's (Transco) application for water obstruction and encroachment permits for its proposed Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline (FERC Docket: CP15-138).

The Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline would cause significant impacts to water bodies and wetlands. Transco is proposing at least 578 water body and wetland crossings along the proposed pipeline route in Pennsylvania, impacting numerous exceptional value (EV) wetlands, high-quality watersheds and Tucquan Creek, a State Scenic River. The DEP has an obligation to protect these sensitive ecological resources under Art. I, Sec. 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Before it can issue permits for a project of this magnitude, the DEP must first provide citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions on the record at a public hearing.

The Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force executive summary acknowledges that "permits are not reviewed for the cumulative and long-term impacts" and that "chosen routes do not necessarily avoid sensitive lands, habitats, and natural features." Further, it states that these impacts are not always minimized or mitigated. The Task Force identified "recommendations of the highest priority for the Commonwealth" that included amplifying and engaging in meaningful public participation. Holding a public hearing for these permits will show the public that inclusion and participation is indeed "of the highest priority" for the DEP.

DEP should follow New York's lead when it comes to analyzing pipeline construction impacts to water bodies and wetlands. Just recently, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation denied water quality certification for the Constitution Pipeline, which means that the company is legally prohibited from building the pipeline in New York.

My personal observations and concerns:

In addition to the above serious concerns regarding water and ecological damage potential for this proposed pipeline, I can see firsthand what I consider "limp" attempts to protect stream crossings, and more, by Wiliams. I live in Jordan Township, approximately one mile north of the Williams Transco pipeline that was installed in the early to mid-1960's, and one and one-half miles from the rupture of June 9, 2015 (another issue of enormous concern for people and the environment involving Williams and their installation and maintenance efforts). In the past

several months I have daily used roads that cross the existing pipeline and have seen preliminary work done by Williams to add a storage loop in this section of Lycoming County--mud dragged onto roads, ineffective bolsters to retain water and mud and obvious tracks that cross wetland without remediation.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sheila Lunger