

May 26, 2016

David Garg  
Waterways and Wetlands Program Manager  
DEP Northcentral Region  
208 West Third Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

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WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Dear Mr. Garg:

We are 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 waterbodies and wetlands. Transco is proposing at least 578 waterbody and wetland crossings along the proposed pipeline route in Pennsylvania, impacting numerous exceptional value (EV) wetlands, high-quality watersheds and rivers. 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 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 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.

We believe that citizens have serious and legitimate concerns that need to be aired at a public hearing. We suggest that, in the best interests of the Commonwealth, an open public meeting be held for the consideration of the proposed water obstruction and encroachment permit which would greatly impact the quality of life in this region by impacting the land, water, animal habitat and citizens.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



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Millville, PA 17846  
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