

Thank you for the opportunity to speak concerning the proposed Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline. I'm here today to represent Lancaster Against Pipelines and hope to make clear our opposition to this pipeline and to ask that you deny the water quality permits for this unneeded project. In April of 2014 Williams presented their planned project to residents at a meeting of the county commissioners. Over forty residents spoke. All of them were opposed. In June of 2014 over 1000 people showed up at an open house in Millersville for residents to share their concerns with the pipeline company's representatives. These open houses are supposed to address the concerns of landowners but no one there was writing anything down and nothing expressed was ever documented. In August of 2014 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission listened to four and a half hours of comments in opposition to this project. A FERC spokeswoman said they had never seen opposition to a project quite like this before. Of the over 6000 comments received by FERC during the comment period over 97% were opposed. Clearly the regulatory process is not designed to serve the public but rather it serves the desires of the industry.

So why are we dead set against this pipeline? Landowners will be forced through eminent domain to accept a 42" high pressure pipeline that will be used primarily for exporting fracked gas overseas as liquefied natural gas. But this is not an environmental issue and for the Pa DEP has no bearing on tonight's hearing. It should however be of great concern to anyone who values the right of hard working Americans to protect their greatest asset from corporate greed. As your name suggests let's talk about the environment. This pipeline if built will carry fracked gas from the Marcellus Shale to export facilities. Fracking is shown to have health impacts in the form of contaminated wells, cancer causing VOC's from compressor stations, decrease birth weights, asthma and the release of otherwise stationary radon in the shale formations. As the project moves south it crosses hundreds of streams and wetlands in the Susquehanna River watershed. Horizontal directional drilling will be used to go underneath the Conestoga River and other large water crossings. Just several weeks ago Energy Transfer Partners experienced a release of bentonite while performing an HDD on the rover pipeline in Ohio. The Ohio EPA says the area will take decades to recover. During construction of the ten mile long Rock Springs pipeline in 2016 Williams was cited for numerous soil erosion control measures. They had in fact not installed any where they were removing trees and shrubs at the Fishing creek crossing just upstream from the fishing creek conservancy. It was people like myself who sounded the alarm not the DEP, the Army Corp, or the soil conservation district. It took several weeks before officials made a site visit. They still found numerous violations yet no fines were issued.

Perhaps the most compelling reason to deny permits for this project is the overwhelming science concerning global warming. ~~While CO2 emissions may indeed be down~~ the increase in emissions of methane will have catastrophic results that will be as bad as or worse than if we continue to burn coal. Agencies like the DEP may or may not have a legal mandate to consider these cumulative impacts but you certainly have a moral obligation to do so. The potential for disaster occurs at every water crossing, at every well head and at every LNG facility. All this for something we don't need. Just for corporate profit. It is no secret that the DEP is grossly underfunded. Until the DEP can adequately review and enforce the regulations under its jurisdiction regarding the construction of this pipeline no permits from the state should be issued.

Tim Spiese-Lancaster Against Pipelines