

**Commentary for DEP Hearings for Chapter 102/105 Permits – 6/14/2017 at Lebanon Valley College**

My name is Jane Popko. I am a resident of South Londonderry Township, Lebanon County

As an agency of the State of Pennsylvania, the DEP is obligated to uphold the **PA. Constitution, Article 1, Section 27.**

**Natural Resources and the Public Estate:** The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

(This amendment, which was adopted in 1972, encompasses two basic principles. First, Pennsylvanians have a right to a decent environment, and second, Pennsylvania government has a trusteeship responsibility to protect that environment on behalf of future generations. The statute that creates the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as well as the statutes that the Department is charged with administering, implement this amendment.)

Since the Federal Government is abdicating its role by weakening the regulations created by the EPA, the responsibility to protect the environment of Pennsylvania rests solely on state agencies. FERC's rush to approve this pipeline without completing its investigation makes the decision of the DEP even more important.

The overwhelming evidence supporting the detrimental effects of fracking on the health, safety, and environment of the citizens of Pennsylvania provide the impetus to declare a moratorium on fracking in PA. This moratorium would negate the need to grant approval of the 102/105 permits. The development of this pipeline infrastructure assumes a growth inducing action in shale development.

There is currently an existing pipeline to transport natural gas from the fracking area without adding this unneeded short cut. There is no need to contribute to any additional degradation to the state's waterways, wet lands, and environment in addition to decreased property values and safety concerns.

The economic benefits to PA. are negligible. The pipeline is made in Turkey, the jobs will be given to out-of-staters (see the license plate of the vehicles currently working on the Mariner East pipeline). These workers will be long gone when the taxpayers of PA. need to pay for the restoration of our damaged environment and deal with infrastructure problems leading to safety issues and explosions. It is time for Pennsylvania to invest in renewable energy jobs and be a leader in protecting this fragile ecosystem.

New York state has banned fracking and did not issue permits for the FERC approved Constitution Pipeline. **Let's follow their lead by not approving the PA. 102/105 permits.** It is time to put the citizens of PA. first.

**The DEP has a constitutional, moral, and ethical reason to deny these permits.**

Jane T. Popko

142 School House Rd.

Palmyra, PA. 17078-8306

717-838-3291

[jpopko1@verizon.net](mailto:jpopko1@verizon.net)