

June 14, 2017

## Statement on Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline-DEP Permitting

I'm writing as a citizen of Pine Grove, Schuylkill County, asking you to do the right thing: Deny the Chapter 105 and 102 applications for Transco's Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline project on the basis that it will cause irreversible damage to Pennsylvania water and environment during construction and throughout the life of the pipeline.

Over the course of the last several years, I've heard directly from neighbors along the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline path. Many say they feel taken advantage of, violated, demoralized and victims of trespass and corporate greed. Farmers feel under attack, like they have no control over their land, water and natural resources. One woman even told me surveyors broke into a cherished family farmhouse on her family's property. Many report being lied to and misled. This isn't the type of corporation we trust to install high-pressure natural gas pipelines near our homes and our waterways.

Many young folks are questioning even staying in this area because they don't want to live in a community plagued with pipelines. Clean energy is here, it is cheaper than fossil fuels when taxpayer subsidies and government loopholes are removed, and it's the best way to create a larger number of well-paying, permanent jobs that can't be outsourced.

You have the power to stop this pipeline. Please listen to the people and resist the pressure to side with corporations. This is a "shortcut" pipeline that is headed to the coast to export. It's certainly not here to benefit the people of Schuylkill County and our neighbors.

Let's talk money.

Independent economic reports tell us pipelines like the Atlantic Sunrise will cause massive ecological damage that will hit townships and its taxpayers hard, including loss of property value.

- \$21.3 and \$91.6 billion: The estimated cost to the environment
- \$6.2 to \$22.7 million: Loss of ecosystem services during construction.
- \$2.9 to \$11.4 million per year: Annual cost of irreversibly damaged ecosystems

These ecological services include: Lost food production, water supply, poorer air quality, worsening erosion, loss of biological diversity and soil fertility and more.

Please also consider that the Environmental Protection Agency also issued a letter to FERC last summer saying the DEIS for Atlantic Sunrise lacked public transparency and full detail. Aside from that, the report also did not include proper alternatives or include actual cumulative effects this pipeline and the fracked gas it would carry would have on our water and climate. The science is clear: This project would have

significant adverse environmental impacts, safety issues, air and climate change impacts, economic ramifications, permanent impacts on scenery and rural character of the region, and threaten drinking water sources, groundwater wells, wetlands, springs and seeps, water quality, and septic systems of the Commonwealth.

Let's talk safety.

The pipeline salesmen that have been knocking on my neighbors' doors, promising them Atlantic Sunrise will be perfectly safe. Meanwhile, they see news reports of other massive pipelines failures, leaks and pollution, dealing with the newfound reality that they could be living within several feet of this same fate.

Due to a range of recent failures, explosions and other problems, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is proposing sweeping changes to its safety regulations. These haven't even been finalized yet, and Transco hasn't released any information on how they will upgrade Atlantic Sunrise to meet these new requirements. How can you issue permits for this project when the newest national safety guidelines aren't even released yet? These new safeguards will surely be better aimed at protecting our water and environment.

On top of all of the clear and independent data showing this pipeline will cause economic, environmental and, specifically irreversible waterway damage, it's also true that we will receive no county real estate taxes on the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline. None of our townships will receive tax benefits, either. This is just more evidence that our small-town residents and our streams and natural resources will bear the negative impacts of this pipeline, with little to nothing to gain.

Let's not forget that our neighboring states of Maryland and New York have banned fracking because the damage caused during fracking and transporting the gas outweighs the benefits. This is all playing out in Pennsylvania. Please stop the damage and deny these permits.

Thank you.

Leah Zerbe

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