

Testimony of Rev. Douglas Hunt
before the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project Permits Public Hearing
June 12, 2017 - Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Good evening. I'm Rev. Douglas Hunt, Vice President of Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light, member of the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Action Network Environmental Justice Task Force, Main Line Unitarian Church and a resident of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. I also have degree in Physics and a Masters degree in engineering from Johns Hopkins.

I am here this evening, not to give opinions, make assessments, point fingers, or challenge the judgment and motivations of those pursuing this pipeline project. I am here to ask questions.

I do not live in an area that will soon be dramatically or immediately affected by the completion of this project. I do have friends and colleagues there, and I do care ~~deeply~~ ⁱⁿ about the lives and futures of those who live here and along the path of this pipeline and have heard their stories of loss, pain, and anger. ~~And for those whose livelihood depends on this project~~

But most note I also care ~~deeply~~ ^{most} about the kind of future that faces those most immediately and directly affected, ^{by the project} and about the future that faces all children and grandchildren, including my 13 month old great grandson.

I, and my generation, are leaving an unholy mess which threatens these children's future and the future of generations to come. ~~that~~

We did not intend this.

But even now, in the face of overwhelming evidence, disrupted lives, radically changing climates, dramatically rising sea levels, are we acting with the dedication and commitment required to meet the existential threat.. posed to our and future generations by climate disruption? *On our local fronts*

The methane that will be carried through pipelines has over 80 times the heat trapping power of CO2 during its first 20 years in the atmosphere. Over the course of that time those emissions will have the impact of approximately 200 coal-fired electricity generating plants. It is important to note that Pennsylvania is the second largest producer of natural gas in the US.

Scientists estimate that 25% of human-caused climate change we are experiencing is the result of methane emissions.

In the face of the increasingly devastating effects of climate change, our faith traditions compel us to engage in efforts that heal and protect our planet. This includes not only praying, but demanding that policy decisions made in our name do no harm.

So, I have a few, not so simple questions about the Atlantic Sunrise project.

> Does this pipeline move us toward a sustainable future for our world, one free from fossil fuel use?

> Will this pipeline harm the health of people or the planet locally or globally ~~and~~ *and* move us toward a world where present generations live in a way that will allow future generations to thrive? *W/out financial resource*

> Are the voices that have too often been ignored: *poor* people, people of color, women, indigenous people, children, and frontline communities, such as those in this pipeline's path, reflected in this proposal?

>Will this project further efforts to a build a world of justice, where environmental costs and benefits are equitably shared; a world sustained by peace, and by an ever-growing harmony and solidarity between all species?

The completion of the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline, along its now proposed route through Lancaster County raise immediate and critically important questions of basic justice, health, and wellbeing for those in and near its proposed final trajectory. The intentional routing of the pipeline through farms and other areas where little or no effective resistance could be expected is reprehensible.

It also raises serious moral and ethical questions about the probable dramatic and catastrophic ways this venture will impact current and future generations, especially those least able to adjust or adapt.

In considering this proposal and your responses to these questions, I ask that the DEP carefully ~~consider~~ review Section 27 of our Pennsylvania Constitution:

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.

(May 18, 1971, P.L.769, J.R.3)