

Rebecca Peterson, Tioga Environmental Consulting, LLC

I'm Rebecca Peterson, Director of Operations for Tioga Environmental Consulting in Tunkhannock. We are a group of engineers and environmental scientists that design and permit well pads and pipelines. We also provide Environmental Inspections for well pads and pipelines during construction and post construction.

We permit Chapter 102 and 105 permits for Williams and we know that they are dedicated to routing pipelines and utilizing Best Management Practices to minimize environmental impacts during construction. We know that the engineers and biologists at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection provide a careful technical review for all Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 permit applications to ensure that they meet applicable environmental requirements. Williams has been working with the DEP for more than two years on the Chapter 102 and 105 permits for the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline, and the current permit applications reflect the cooperation and collaboration Williams has demonstrated with DEP, as well as federal and state permitting agencies, to avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands, waterbodies and other sensitive environmental areas.

We also provide environmental inspections for Williams and we know firsthand how important the proper implementation of permit requirements is to the company. Dedicated, full-time environmental inspectors will be employed during construction to oversee and ensure that best-management practices are implemented during construction and restoration to mitigate potential impacts associated with the installation of the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline. The pipeline ROW will be restored to original contours and the restoration process will ensure that the all disturbed areas are permanently stabilized, therefore impacts to farming and habitats will only be temporary.

Tioga also knows firsthand how abundant and affordable natural gas has positively impacted this region. Most of our staff is from the Tunkhannock area and natural gas production has allowed us to move back to the area or stay in the area with excellent career opportunities. The lack of energy infrastructure to move gas to markets threatens the long-term viability and growth of an industry that can drive economic prosperity and local job growth for generations to come. The Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline is a critical infrastructure project that will move gas produced locally to markets.

My coworkers and I love this area. We want the best for the community and the environment. We are hunters and outdoor enthusiasts and we know from professional and personal experience that pipelines provide safe gas transportation without negatively impacting resources or wildlife. We call on the PA DEP to approve the Chapter 102 and 105 permits for the Atlantic Sunrise project without delay, we believe that it is critical that the Atlantic Sunrise project be in-service by mid 2018 to ensure the economic stability and growth of the area, meet our energy needs, and allow a construction schedule that would place the project's facilities in service in the safest and most environmentally responsible manner.