DEP Hearing • June 12, 2017 Lancaster Farm and Home Center Comments by Mark Clatterbuck Lancaster County Resident

My name is Mark Clatterbuck. I live in Martic Township, Lancaster County.

For the next 3 minutes, I'll focus my comments on 2 points regarding Williams' plan to conduct Horizontal Directional Drilling under the Conestoga River in southern Lancaster County.

## Point #1

The HDD path runs directly through a confirmed Susquehannock Indian burial ground listed on the National Register of Historic places.¹ Williams Pipeline Company, the DEP, the FERC, the Army Corps of Engineers, and even the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office all seem content to drill right through this nationally recognized indigenous burial site without apology. When challenged, agency officials have responded that drilling will *probably* not disturb the bones of these Iroquoian ancestors, whose descendants were slaughtered in a 1763 massacre right there along the Conestoga River.

But let's stop playing games. As a professor of Native American Religions, I can assure you that, from an indigenous perspective (which is the one that actually matters here), building a high-volume, fracked-gas, export pipeline directly under Native American graves—whether 2 or 20 feet below the surface—represents an egregious assault on the lives, dignity, culture, and surviving relatives of all those buried in that earth.

In fact, I think you already know that yourselves. After all, just last month, another gravesite—a small, Euroamerican, Christian cemetery—was discovered less than a mile from those Susquehannock Indian graves. This white, Christian cemetery lies at the edge of the proposed construction corridor, not even directly in the pipeline's path. Nor is it listed on any register of historic places. *And yet* the State Historic Preservation Office has recommended that a *fence* be built around the site, and that *constant monitoring* take place during construction *to ensure that it suffers no damage*.

It turns out that you all <u>do</u> understand the sanctity of graves. It just depends on who's buried in them.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Site #36LA01. See attached map that was provided to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission by Williams.

## Point #2

It's no secret that local communities along the proposed ASP are feeling desperately threatened by this project. No where is this more obvious than right here in Lancaster County, where the Lancaster Stand has emerged as a base of pipeline resistance, located at Williams' proposed drill pad along the Conestoga River.

To date, more than 900 residents have publicly signed a "Pledge to Resist" vowing to take part in non-violent civil disobedience to stop this pipeline. Of those 900 people, more than 400 have now completed intensive Non Violent Mass Action training.

After 3 years of local communities fighting this battle, the veil of mystery surrounding the pipeline permitting process has been pulled back, and you—the regulatory agencies charged with issuing or denying permits—are standing naked in front of us this evening. We know the game. We know you have no legal obligation to do *anything* with these comments after they fall from our lips. We know you serve industry elites; not us.

And yet, we still showed up tonight. We showed up because what <u>does</u> matter to us is that you understand how serious we are about stopping this project that puts our water, our land, our homes, our farms, our families, and our futures at risk. All the sold-out regulatory agencies and politicians the industry can buy won't stop the wave of community uprising that's growing larger *every time* they draw another greedy line on the map that FERC & the DEP are only too eager to approve.

Please understand what we're telling you, and let it inform your conscience. If the *Department of Environmental Protection* refuses, once more, to stop this environmentally disastrous, billionaire pleasing, backward looking, community threatening, water poisoning, tree clearing, wildlife destroying, greenhouse gas spewing, clean energy killing project—then we, the people, are committed to stopping this project ourselves.

We're not here to grandstand or bluster. We're here appealing to your shared humanity to stop this dangerous, dead-end game in which *you* are deeply complicit players.

And so Lancaster County joins Lebanon, Schuylkill, Luzerne, and Columbia Counties in calling on you—the PA DEP—to deny the permits being sought for the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline.

Thank you.