

June 20, 2017

Department of Environmental Protection
North-Central Regional Office
Waterways and Wetlands Program
208 W. 3rd Street, Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701

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WATERWAYS & WETLANDS

To Whom It May Concern:

This is my written comment with regards to the 102/105 permits for the Atlantic Sunrise Project now under review by PA DEP.

The project will impact over 300 water bodies and 250 wetlands. Of these water bodies, the Central Penn line will impact the South Branch Roaring Creek, a class A trout stream in Northumberland County. In addition, 6 of these crossings impact special regulation streams: Mahanoy Creek, the Conestoga River, Pequea Creek, Strickler Run, Chiques Creek, and Shamokin Creek.

PA DEP issued the 401 Water Quality Certificate in the spring of last year irresponsibly, prior to the completion of the draft environmental impact statement by FERC, and prior to the submission of the 102/105 applications by Transco. When these applications were submitted, PA DEP acknowledged how incomplete they were by sending out deficiency letters in all 8 counties impacted by the Central Penn Line. If the water obstruction and encroachment applications were so lacking in information, how was it possible that PA DEP had enough information to issue the 401 water quality certificate, guaranteeing that that stream crossings would be adequate to ensure water quality?

The Department of Environmental Conservation in New York state denied the 401 certificate for the Constitution pipeline and the Northern Access pipeline, stating in both cases that the hundreds of stream crossings would impact sensitive ecological area, old-growth forest, and undisturbed springs. They also stated that they recieved limited information about pipe burial depth. In addition, the companies failed to address the significant water quality impacts. Due to these reasons, the application did not meet New York's water quality standards and the 401 certificate was denied.

In Pennsylvania, we have similar quality streams and watersheds. Transco has repeatedly claimed that the water quality impacts are insignificant, without going into detail about each specific site. Further, the majority of the waterbody and wetland crossings are on the surface. Transco plans to use either HDD drilling or conventional bore for only 8 of the waterbody crossing. The remainder of the crossings, Transco will use surface water crossings – either dam and pump or wet-open cut methods. These surface crossing methods will cause serious erosion and sedimentation issues, impact the water quality, and the riparian area of the stream.

DEP also has a responsibility to consider the cumulative impacts of permitting the Central Penn Line. This large, natural gas transmission line will increase the number of unconventional wells in northeast Pennsylvania. DEP has already received over 9,442 complaints from citizens impacted by unconventional drilling activities. With over 10,00 active wells, that is almost one complaint per well. Those wells are on over 3,400 well pads, making that about 3 complaints per well pad. At the height of drilling in 2011-2012, DEP received on average 4 oil and gas related complaints a day. An increase in drilling will only increase the workload at DEP, decrease the quality of Pennsylvania's environment, and decrease the quality of life for residents.

PA DEP must deny the 102/105 permits, deny the state water quality certification, and deny the test water discharges. Deny these permits for the sake of your constituents, the public, and your own credibility. In addition, threatening to remove citizens who wish to hold up signs at a public meeting at a public place is a restriction on free speech and free expression. Please kindly accept my sign that I was unable to hold up at the public meeting and add it to the public record.

Thank you for your time,

Sierra Shamer

**COLOMBIA
DEMANDS**

**DENYDIEP
PERMITS!**

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