

Department of Environmental Protection Hearing
Bloomsburg, PA, June 13, 2017

DEP, protecting our water resources has been your job for nearly five decades. You know what's involved with a project the size of the Atlantic Sunrise. The final EIS report released by FERC defines the challenge of the task for us: "The project would cross source water protection areas associated with the Susquehanna River, Swatara Creek and four waterbodies with potable water intakes within three miles downstream of the proposed waterbody crossing." That includes water people in Bloomsburg need to drink.

By FERC's count, the project is proposed to cross 388 waterbodies, five considered major. There are 105 wetlands to be crossed, each one presenting distinct challenges, each one posing risks of irreparable harm to local water sources. Those risks are far too great to take!

DEP, you know from experience that FERC's assurance that "impacts on wetland resources would be effectively minimized or mitigated" is not true. Even with best practices and no major accidents, mistakes will be made; harm to the environment will occur. And Williams-Transco has an appalling safety record! Their assurances are worthless! As effective as you can be as our protector, you do not have the resources to monitor this project as closely as will be required. The dangers and costs should not be born by our citizens!

But there's a sure way to prevent disaster: deny the permits! Fossil fuel extraction is dirty, dangerous, old technology. The ASP is obsolete and unnecessary, merely a shortcut for Williams-Transco to extract and export. They have so much invested in this project that they won't back out. That's why we need you to stop them.

I feel like Princess Leia as I appeal to you to be stalwart in your resistance to the pressures to approve the permits for this pipeline project. You must be Obi-Wan Kenobi, using your force for the good of all Pennsylvania, not allowing our waters to be destroyed for their corporate profit.

DEP, you must deny the permits that would allow the ASP to gouge its way through our waterbodies and wetlands. Stop the project from withdrawing millions of gallons of water per day from our rivers and streams--water that will be polluted or lost by the industry. That's water that rightfully belongs to the people, animals and habitat of our watersheds.

DEP, be the FORCE for good!
Deny the permits for Atlantic Sunrise!

Linda Dietrichson, member of
Fishing Creek Watershed Association
Columbia-Montour Coalition for Source Water Protection
Columbia County Against the Pipeline