

Information Sheet

**August 2017**

**Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project**

*This information sheet serves as a summary overview of the project*



The Atlantic Sunrise is a natural gas pipeline proposed by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco). The proposedAtlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project is designed to supply natural gas by connecting producing regions in northeastern Pennsylvania to markets in the Mid-Atlantic and southeastern states.

The overall pipeline project is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Safety regulations for the pipeline are administered by U.S. Department of Transportation through the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

**WHERE**

The proposed project involves the construction, operation and maintenance of: approximately 183 miles of new pipeline referred to as the Central Penn North & Central Penn South Line; two pipeline capacity expansion loops totaling about 12 miles and referred to as the Chapman Loop and Unity Loop; and two new compressor facilities in Pennsylvania. The project also involves upgrades to 2 existing compressor stations. The project crosses three regions of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): 4 counties in the Northeast Region, 4 counties in North- Central Region, and 2 counties in the South-Central Region.

**PADEP Permit Requirements**

The project requires several permits from DEP:

* **State Water Quality Certification (WQC):** Prior to obtaining authorization from FERC to construct an interstate natural gas transmission pipeline project, an applicant must provide FERC with a WQC from each state through which the pipeline will be constructed.Unless a state waives its right to issue a WQC, each state must evaluate whether the proposed project will be constructed in a manner that achieves the state’s water quality standards. The WQC may be conditioned upon the applicant acquiring permits, authorizations, or approvals required under existing state water quality programs.
* **Chapter 105 – Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permits**: These permits are required as a condition of the WQC for proposed activities located in, along, across or projecting into a watercourse, floodway or body of water, including wetlands.
	+ The applicant submitted Chapter 105 permit applications for each county that will be crossed for a total of 10 Chapter 105 permit applications. Eight of the Chapter 105 permit applications relate to the proposed Central Penn Line and two of the Chapter 105 permit applications relate to the proposed Unity and Chapman Loops.
* **Chapter 102 – Erosion & Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-2)**: This permit is required as a condition of the WQC for proposed earth disturbances associated with oil and gas exploration, production, processing or treatment operations or transmission facilities where earth disturbance is five acres or greater.
	+ One ESCGP-2 Notice of Intent (NOI) was submitted relate to the proposed Central Penn Line, and review was coordinated with the applicable county conservation districts. ESCGP-2 NOIs were also received in the applicable County Conservation Districts for the Unity and Chapman Loops.
* **NPDES Permit for Hydrostatic Test Water Discharges (PAG-10)**: This general permit is required as a condition of the WQC for proposed discharges of wastewater generated from pressure testing the proposed pipeline.
	+ The Department received 1 PAG-10 permit application for the proposed project.
* **Air Quality Permits**: These permits are needed to ensure that the sources that are constructed are operated in compliance with applicable requirements in the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act, the Federal Clean Air Act and regulations adopted under the Federal Clean Air Act.
	+ The North-Central Region received two air quality permits for upgrades to existing facilities. Additionally, DEP received a Plan Approval from Transco that would authorize the transfer and use of Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs).

**CURRENT STATUS**

* Following technical review and opportunity for public comment, the Department issued a WQC for the proposed project on April 5, 2016. The WQC is conditioned upon the applicant obtaining certain discharge permits, erosion and sediment control permits, and water obstruction and encroachment permits.
* For the Chapman Loop in Clinton County, the Clinton County Conservation District acknowledged the ESCGP-2 permit on April 29, 2016 and the Department issued the Chapter 105, Water Obstruction and Encroachment permit on April 29, 2016.
* Following a technical review of the application that was received December 29, 2016, the Department issued an authorization to use the PAG-10 general permit on April 11, 2017 authorizing the discharge of hydrostatic test water from the proposed project.
* The North-Central Region issued two permits for compressor station upgrades.  A permit (19-00007B) was issued for an upgrade to Station 517 in Jackson Township, Columbia County on February 1, 2017 and a permit (41-00001B) was issued for upgrades at Station 520 in Mifflin Township, Lycoming County on June 1, 2017.
* Following a technical review of the application and NOI, the Chapter 102 NOI and Chapter 105 application for the Unity Loop in Lycoming County were issued on August 30, 2017 by the North-Central Regional Office and Lycoming County Conservation District.
* Following technical review and opportunity for public comment, the Department issued for the Central Penn Line the 8 Chapter 105 permits and 1 Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Permit. These permits were issued on August 30, 2017.
* On July 14, 2017, DEP received an application for a Plan Approval from Transco that would authorize the transfer and use of Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) generated by the Harford County Resource Recovery Facility located in Harford County, MD. The transfer and use of ERCs for 106.0 tons of oxides of nitrogen would be used to comply with the offset requirements of Plan Approval No. 36-001GC regarding construction emissions from the proposed pipeline project in Lancaster County. This plan approval was issued on September 8, 2017.

**MORE INFORMATION**

* For more information, and to track updates, visit DEP’s Atlantic Sunrise Web Page (dep.pa.gov/pipelines).
* For region-specific questions, send an email to the following respective regional address: Northeast Regional Office: RA-EPWW-NERO@PA.GOV OR North-Central Regional Office: RA-EPWW-NCRO@PA.GOV . Project-wide inquires may be directed to the DEP’s Northeast Regional Office.