

PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC. PennEast Pipeline

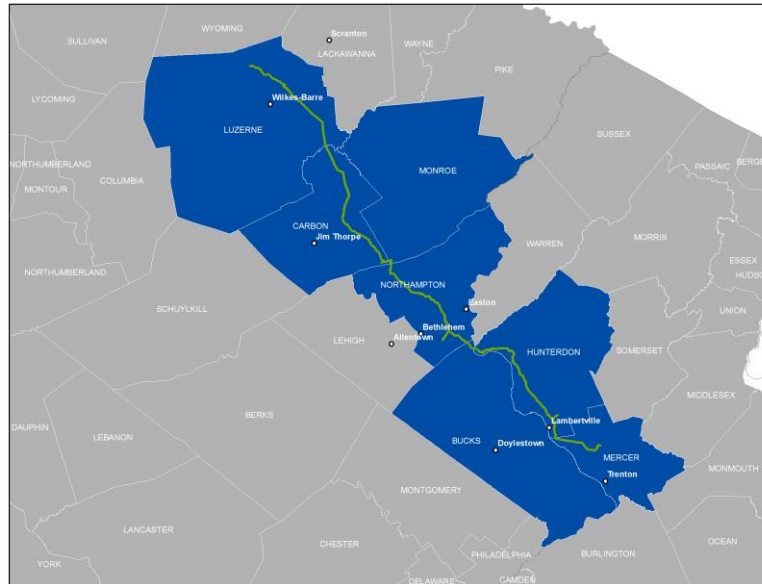
Project Summary- This information sheet serves as a summary overview of the project.

Additional information on the project can be found at www.dep.pa.gov

For more detailed information on this project, see link at the end of this document.

WHAT

The overall project involves construction of one pipeline to convey natural gas. Since the pipeline will convey natural gas across state lines, it is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Safety regulations for the pipeline are administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).



The proposed pipeline will extend more than 100 miles across two regions of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It is proposed to cross four counties in the Northeast Region and one county in the Southeast Region. The proposed project involves the construction of compressor stations and includes avoidance of environmental or cultural resources and avoidance of surface features.

WHERE

The PennEast pipeline is a natural gas transmission pipeline proposed by the PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC. The proposed natural gas transmission line is a 118-mile project consisting primarily of 36-inch pipeline which will traverse 5 counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. The PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC., is a limited liability corporation formed by AGL Resources, NJR Pipeline Company, PSEG Power; SJI Midstream, Spectra Energy Partners and UGI Energy Services.

TIMETABLE/CURRENT STATUS:

- The Department received an application for a state water quality certification on February 9, 2016. It was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on May 14, 2016. The application was determined complete on June 29, 2016 and published again in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on August 27, 2016. Submitted public comments were evaluated by the Department prior to the request being approved. On February 7, 2017, DEP approved the applicant's request for State 401 Water Quality Certification. The conditional State 401 Water Quality Certification was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on February 25, 2017.
- The Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP) Notice of Intent (NOI) and Chapter 105 applications were submitted to DEP in 2016. Incompleteness letters were sent to the applicant on December 23, 2016. Re-submissions were received on December 26, 2018. Completeness letters were sent on January 25, 2019. Technical deficiency letters were sent on July 3, 2019. Responses were received on November 1, 2019 and March 27, 2020. Technical deficiency letters were sent out on May 14, 2020 and a complete response was received on July 21, 2020.

NEXT STEPS

- For the air quality permit, the Department will review testimony from the public hearing, any submitted public comments that were provided in response to the published notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and will continue to complete its technical review of the permit application.
- The Department will continue to conduct its technical review of the Chapter 105 applications and Erosion and Sediment Control Permit application.

LEAD DEP REVIEWING OFFICE(S):

DEP'S Regional Permit Coordination Office (RPCO) has been assigned to provide oversight of the entire project, to be a point of contact for the applicant, and to coordinate with the County Conservation Districts to ensure that the technical reviews are consistent and are being conducted in a timely manner.

DEP PERMITS REQUIRED

Multiple DEP permits and approvals are required for this proposed project. These include:

- **Section 401- State Water Quality Certification:** This certification is needed for a proposed Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulated interstate natural gas transmission pipeline project and is required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act to ensure FERC includes state law requirements in its federal authorization necessary to protect the quality of waters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and achieve state water quality standards.
- **Chapter 105 – Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permits:** This type of permit is required for activities located in, along, across or projecting into a watercourse, floodway or body of water, including wetlands. For this project, the majority of the regulated activities are associated with crossings of wetlands, streams and floodways.
 - The RPCO received separate Chapter 105 applications for each county where the pipeline impacts waters or wetlands, for a total of four Chapter 105 permit applications.

- **Chapter 102 – Erosion & Sediment Control Permit:** This type of permit is required for earth disturbance associated with oil and gas exploration, production, processing or treatment operations or transmission facilities when earth disturbance is five acres or greater. For this project, DEP staff will work closely with the County Conservation Districts to review and process the application.
 - The RPCO received one Chapter 102 application for all five counties the pipeline crosses.
- **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Hydrostatic Test Water Discharges:** This permit is required for proposed discharges of wastewater generated as a result of pressure testing of pipes to detect any leaks before they are put into service.
 - To date, no permit applications have been submitted for this activity.
 - Permitting/approvals related to associated water withdrawals is handled by the respective river basin commissions, where applicable.
- **Air Quality Permit:** This permit is required for modification(s)/addition(s) of compressor station(s) and other activities of the project that may need to comply with federal and/or state air emissions regulations. Each DEP Regional Office where emissions are proposed will likely receive Request(s) for Determination or application(s) for state operating plan approval(s).
 - The Northeast Regional Office received one plan approval application for the Kidder Township compressor station located in Kidder Township, Carbon County. This application is under review. The Department held a public hearing on this application on March 1, 2017.

PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS: HIGHLIGHTS

- Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 applications were submitted on February 12, 2016 and were deemed complete on January 25, 2019. The applications are currently in technical review.
- The 30-day public comment period associated with the Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 applications expired on March 18, 2019. Additional comments received throughout the DEP's technical review will still be considered.
- A Comment/Response Document will be prepared.

TO PROVIDE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Please contact Ms. Colleen Connolly, coconnoll@pa.gov Community Relations Coordinator, Northeast Regional Office, Wilkes-Barre or submit comments to RA-EPPENNEAST@pa.gov .

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information, including copies of documents submitted to DEP and opportunities for public involvement, can be found on DEP's Pipeline Portal. <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/ProgramIntegration/Pennsylvania-Pipeline-Portal/Pages/default.aspx>