



October 12, 2022

Comments Submitted via email to RA-EPREGIONALPERMIT@pa.gov

We ask you to deny the Chapter 102 and 105 permits for Williams Transco's Regional Energy Access Expansion (REAE) project. We have serious concerns about the safety, climate impacts, and market need for this project.

The proposed REAE project does not only impact Pennsylvania. It is diametrically opposed to New Jersey's stated goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030. In fact, this project would add over 16.62 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year to New Jersey's total inventory, an approximate 16-18% increase in the state's from just this project.

Both through routine venting and fugitive leaks, compressor stations release methane, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, sulfur dioxide and fine particulate matter, all of which are harmful pollutants with direct public health impacts, including asthma.

In addition to climate and environmental impacts, we have serious safety concerns for the people and resources along the proposed route. In 2013, at the same New Jersey Transco compressor station proposed for expansion in this project, a flash fire injured 13 people, sending two workers to the hospital. New Jersey communities along the route should not have to bear the cost for emergency response and preparedness.

The state of New Jersey itself has concerns about the market need for this project. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities recently [commissioned a study](#) which concluded New Jersey already has enough gas supply to meet demand through 2030, even during peak demand in extremely cold weather events. New Jersey ratepayers should not shoulder the cost for expanding gas infrastructure when the state's own studies demonstrate that more than enough capacity exists today. Both NJBPU and the New Jersey ratepayer advocate [filed a motion to intervene with FERC on this project](#), lodging those concerns.

Regarding the permits for this hearing, we attest that Transco needs to better account for sensitive wildlife along the Pennsylvania route, including local bat populations and wood turtles; address the lack of restoration for proposed wetland impacts; and address the concern of landslides during construction.

Chapter 102 and 105 are designed to protect our precious water resources. This project would cross exceptional value wetlands, waterbodies that support cold water fisheries, high quality and exceptional value streams, and trout reproduction waters. Clearing forest around these waterways will further impact water quality and local habitat. Any leaks or accidents would run the risk of catastrophically and permanently impacting these resources.

Climate change and its impacts don't respect state borders, and as New Jerseyans, we urge you to say no to these permits. Thank you.