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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: CHAPTER 102 INDIVIDUAL NPDES PERMIT APPLICATION
PAD320011-HCPP PIPELINE, HOMER CITY GENERATION LP

* * * * *

BEFORE: ELSPETH KOEHLE,
Regional Environmental Justice Coordinator

HEARING: Tuesday, May 12, 2026
4:56 p.m.

LOCATION: Indiana Theatre
637 Philadelphia Street
Indiana, PA 15701

WITNESSES: None

Reporter: Lacey C. Scott

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ALSO PRESENT:

AMANDA ZANER
SUSAN COMFORT
DANA DRISCOLL
JESSICA JOPP
JAY TING WALKER
TAMARA WHITED
KATHY ECKENRODE
JANE KAMINSKI
AMANDA OAKS
LEIGH HENDRIX
GARNET FRYLING
SHAFFER FRYLING DOUGLAS
JENNICA GIROUX
COLLEEN DONOVAN
SALLY SIMPSON
SARA B. KING
KAT MARQUEZ
KURT LIMBACH
LYNDA SANTOS
REBECCA MYERS
COLLEEN O'NEIL
DAMIAN KORDELL

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ALSO PRESENT (cont.):

BAILEY NACE

DARCY TRUNZO

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MS. KOEHLE: Good afternoon every one.
I'd like to welcome you to DEP's public hearing on the proposed NPDES permit application. My name is Elspeth Koehle, Regional Environmental Justice Coordinator. I'm facilitating this hearing for the Department of Environmental.
I officially call this hearing to order at 4:56 p.m. A stenographer will be transcribing the hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to formally accept testimony on the proposed NPDES permit application. DEP will accept comments on the documentation and plans associated with individual NPDES Permit Application Number PAD320011 for this discharge of stormwater from construction activities to the following receiving watercourses, Muddy Run, Blacklick Creek, and various unnamed tributary --- tributaries to Muddy Run and Blacklick Creek cold-water fishes.
To give everyone an equal opportunity to comment on this application, I would like to establish the following ground rules. I will open up the witnesses - I'll call upon the witnesses who have signed up to testify at this hearing. All who signed

16:58:13 1 up are assigned a number indicating the order in which
16:58:15 2 witnesses will be called to speak. If time permits, we
16:58:18 3 will open the floor to individuals that wish to provide
16:58:21 4 testimony and did not preregister.

16:58:25 5 Testimony is limited to five minutes for
16:58:27 6 each witness. Please notice that written and spoken
16:58:30 7 testimony both carry the same weight. If you should
16:58:33 8 run out of time for your spoken testimony, DEP will
16:58:36 9 review the rest of your comments from the written
16:58:38 10 testimony you submit after the hearing.

16:58:41 11 Testimony is not required to be five
16:58:43 12 minutes long. If others who provide testimony before
16:58:47 13 you are making similar statements to yours, you are
16:58:49 14 free to shorten or summarize your verbal testimony at
16:58:52 15 this time and still provide your full testimony at the
16:58:55 16 end of the evening. This will allow us to hear from
16:58:58 17 more commenters at this hearing.

16:59:01 18 DEP would appreciate your help by
16:59:03 19 spelling out your name and terms that may not be
16:59:06 20 generally familiar so that the transcript can be as
16:59:09 21 accurate as possible.

16:59:11 22 Because of the purpose of a hearing is
16:59:12 23 to receive comments, on the application DEP staff
16:59:16 24 cannot address questions about the application during
16:59:19 25 the duration of the hearing. The Permit Reviewer and

16:59:24 1 the Program Managers are here to hear your testimony
16:59:28 2 though.

16:59:28 3 All testimony received at this hearing
16:59:30 4 as well as written comments received this evening will
16:59:33 5 be considered by DEP and will be included in the
16:59:36 6 comment response document, which will be prepared and
16:59:39 7 reviewed by DEP prior to taking its final action on
16:59:42 8 this application. So I would like to invite my first
16:59:46 9 commenters to come to the mike. Number one on my list
16:59:49 10 is Amanda Zaner. And if you know that you're number
16:59:52 11 two, three, four, five or six, you can line up to this
16:59:55 12 side to the mike or this side. If you did not get your
16:59:58 13 number after Amanda Zaner, we have Susan Comfort, Dana
17:00:03 14 Driscoll, Jessica Jopp and then Jay Ting Walker can
17:00:06 15 line up.

17:00:06 16 **Commenter 2** MS. ZANER: Okay.

17:00:15 17 MS. KOEHLE: All right, Amanda Zaner, go
17:00:17 18 ahead.

17:00:18 19 MS. ZANER: Hi everyone. My name is
17:00:19 20 Amanda Zaner, A-A - A-M-A-N-D-A Z-A-N-E-R. And I am
17:00:24 21 speaking in opposition of the current Chapter 102
17:00:27 22 Individual NPDES Permit Application for the HCPP
17:00:33 23 Pipeline as reviewed on behalf of Three Rivers
17:00:36 24 Waterkeeper which serves as both the Scientific and
17:00:39 25 legal advocate for the Allegheny, and Monongahela and

17:00:41 1 Ohio Rivers, along with their watersheds here.

17:00:45 2 This application brings significant risk
17:00:47 3 of additional stream impairment and sediment pollution
17:00:50 4 within the Blacklick Creek Watershed. The project
17:00:56 5 proposes more than 100 acres of earth disturbance
17:00:59 6 across Blacklick Borough and Center Townships,
17:01:00 7 including at least 21 stream crossings and numerous
17:01:03 8 disturbances adjacent to tributaries, drainage features
17:01:07 9 and wetlands that ultimately discharge into Muddy Run,
17:01:09 10 Blacklick Creek and several other tributaries.

17:01:13 11 These receiving waters already
17:01:15 12 designated as prepared for siltation under Section
17:01:20 13 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and they are classified
17:01:23 14 all as cold-water fishes. Making them - these - this
17:01:25 15 makes them particularly sensitive to sediment loading,
17:01:29 16 temperature increases and streambank destabilization.
17:01:32 17 The scale and intensity of the proposed construction
17:01:35 18 activities, including trenching, clearing, grading,
17:01:40 19 steep slope disturbances and horizontal directional
17:01:43 20 drilling, all create substantial risks for erosion,
17:01:48 21 sediment transport, streambank failures and long-term
17:01:48 22 degradation of aquatic habitat.

17:01:55 23 The application materials identified
17:01:57 24 extensive disturbances within headwater systems and
17:01:58 25 forested stream corridors that also play a critical

17:02:02 1 role in maintaining the water quality and thermal
17:02:05 2 protection for these downstream waters.

17:02:08 3 Once these areas are disturbed sediment
17:02:11 4 can move rapidly into streams during storm events,
17:02:15 5 increase turbidity, embed stream substrates, defurther
17:02:19 6 degrade macroinvertebrate habitat and impairing aquatic
17:02:23 7 life that are already stressed within this watershed.

17:02:25 8 While the application references erosion
17:02:29 9 and sediment control best management practices,
17:02:31 10 generalized commitments are not sufficient for a
17:02:34 11 project with this many crossings and this level of
17:02:38 12 watershed sensitivity. The Department of Environmental
17:02:41 13 should require stronger enforceable permit conditions
17:02:44 14 that specifically address sediment-related impacts,
17:02:47 15 include real-time turbidity monitoring at stream
17:02:50 16 crossings, mandatory post-construction stream
17:02:53 17 restoration monitoring, clear stop-work triggers when
17:02:57 18 sediment controls fail, and site-specific contingency
17:03:01 19 plans for heavy rain events and inadvertent drilling
17:03:05 20 fluid releases.

17:03:06 21 Given the cumulative nature of the
17:03:08 22 disturbances proposed throughout the watershed the
17:03:11 23 Department should also evaluate the combined impacts of
17:03:14 24 repeated stream and wetland disturbances rather than
17:03:16 25 reviewing each crossing in isolations.

17:03:22 1 We continue to urge the Department to
17:03:24 2 require additional analysis and stronger protection
17:03:27 3 measures, especially given the existing impairments
17:03:28 4 within the Blacklick Creek Watershed and substantial
17:03:32 5 unresolved concerns regarding sedimentation and stream
17:03:36 6 disturbance impacts.

17:03:36 7 Three Rivers Waterkeeper opposes
17:03:39 8 issuance of this permit, especially less it can
17:03:42 9 demonstrate that the project will fully protect water
17:03:45 10 quality and prevent further degradation of these
17:03:49 11 already impaired waters in addition to addressing all
17:03:52 12 community concerns. Thank you.

17:03:59 13 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. Ms. Comfort,
17:03:59 14 you're next.

17:04:02 15 MS. COMFORT: Excuse me. Half of the
17:04:03 16 room is filled up, and you started a little early,
17:04:04 17 could you give a quick introduction again, please?

17:04:06 18 MS. KOEHLE: The introduction?

17:04:06 19 MS. COMFORT: Yeah, your introduction
17:04:06 20 again, could you give it, please?

17:04:08 21 MS. KOEHLE: Okay. Sure.

17:04:11 22 So my name is Elspeth Koehle. The
17:04:13 23 hearing has begun. The purpose of the hearing is to
17:04:18 24 formally accept testimony on the proposed NPDES permit
17:04:22 25 application. DEP will accepted comments on the

17:04:25 1 documentation and plans associated with the individual
17:04:28 2 NPDES Permit Application PAD320011 for the discharge of
17:04:34 3 stormwater from construction activities to the
17:04:36 4 following receding watercourses, Muddy Run, Blacklick
17:04:40 5 Creek and various unnamed tributaries to Muddy Run and
17:04:44 6 Blacklick Creek cold-water fishes. Susan, go ahead.

17:04:44 7 [Commenter 14](#) MS. COMFORT: Okay.

17:04:48 8 I'm Susan Comfort, a 32-year resident of
17:04:53 9 Indiana County and Indiana Borough. I'm here today to
17:04:56 10 express my opposition to this project, and some of my
17:04:58 11 concerns and questions.

17:04:59 12 As I understand it, this 5.8 mile
17:05:02 13 pipeline, which is to delivered fracked gas to the
17:05:06 14 proposed 4.4 gigawatt power plant poses many
17:05:11 15 environmental risks to at least 31 stream crossings.
17:05:13 16 It will involve clearcutting nearly 25 acres of trees
17:05:18 17 and also significant earth disturbance on approximately
17:05:22 18 100 acres of land, producing immediate likely impacts
17:05:26 19 of flooding, erosion, sediment buildup along altered
17:05:31 20 and denuded streambeds. This - these impacts will
17:05:34 21 obviously be a serious problem for residents and
17:05:37 22 wildlife living near the construction.

17:05:40 23 But what most people don't realize that
17:05:42 24 the pipeline also poses greater environmental and
17:05:45 25 health risks from cumulative impacts. Indeed, the

17:05:48 1 pipeline is yet one more development project,
17:05:51 2 potentially compounding impacts from previous
17:05:55 3 groundwater and surface water pollution produced by
17:05:59 4 decades of operations at the former Homer City
17:06:07 5 Coal-Burning Plant. There is currently an unimaginable
17:06:08 6 250 million tons of coal waste at the site of the old
17:06:12 7 plant nearby to the pipeline.

17:06:14 8 According to the Environmental Integrity
17:06:17 9 Project, data from 31 groundwater monitoring wells at
17:06:21 10 the site demonstrates that 24 of those have been
17:06:24 11 polluted above federal advisory levels. Groundwater at
17:06:29 12 the site contains unsafe levels of dangerous toxins,
17:06:33 13 like arsenic, lead; cadmium, which by the way has a
17:06:38 14 half-life of between 15 and 30 years. It's classified
17:06:41 15 as one of the most dangerous carcinogenic heavy metals.

17:06:46 16 Many people in the audience today also
17:06:48 17 may not know that Homer City has been designated an
17:06:53 18 Environmental Justice Community by the DEP, meaning
17:06:56 19 Homer City is among low-income cities and towns across
17:07:00 20 Pennsylvania that shoulder a disproportionate burden of
17:07:04 21 pollution, ill health and economic hardship from past
17:07:07 22 development.

17:07:09 23 For example, Homer City ranks in the
17:07:11 24 83rd percentile of cancer rates in the state, and the
17:07:15 25 85th percentile in terms of pollution burden, and 62nd

17:07:21 1 percentile of poverty rates and 68th percentile in
17:07:26 2 unemployment rates.

17:07:27 3 The HCR pipeline project will just
17:07:30 4 increase these burdens. Quite literally, the pipeline
17:07:34 5 site is a sacrifice zone giving that the developers are
17:07:38 6 sacrificing our water and land in exchange for payment
17:07:42 7 into a so-called mitigation bank, allowing them to pay
17:07:46 8 for remediation elsewhere in the state, instead of
17:07:51 9 remediating our water and land here.

17:07:53 10 The HCR project will also likely burden
17:07:57 11 the - worsen the burdens of economic hardship. Yes,
17:08:00 12 there are many, many construction jobs but short-term
17:08:05 13 job growth comes at the expense of long-term
17:08:08 14 livelihoods of area farms and small businesses that
17:08:12 15 depend on clean streams and groundwater.

17:08:16 16 The HCR project also exploits our areas
17:08:20 17 natural wealth of plentiful water and open space for
17:08:24 18 closing possibilities for more sustainable and sound
17:08:27 19 growth of jobs in the future. This is the saddest part
17:08:30 20 of this project. It is what indigenous people call a
17:08:35 21 future-eater, because it pumps - it despoils the land,
17:08:40 22 air and water to fatten the wealthy now so that nothing
17:08:44 23 is left for future generations.

17:08:46 24 My questions are what is the DEP doing
17:08:49 25 to ensure that the proposed pipeline does not compound

17:08:53 1 past social and environmental impacts? What is the DEP
17:08:58 2 doing to adhere to PA Environmental Justice Law that
17:09:02 3 industry not impose more pollution and hardship on an
17:09:06 4 already stressed community? What is the DEP doing as
17:09:10 5 our public trustee to ensure the rights spelled out in
17:09:14 6 the PA Constitution to clean air, pure water and a
17:09:18 7 future of bounteous natural wealth?

17:09:22 8 I think these questions should compel
17:09:24 9 the DEP to deny the permit application. Homer City and
17:09:28 10 Indiana County deserve robust oversight that protects
17:09:31 11 our health, our natural wealth and our future economic
17:09:34 12 development. And we deserve leadership with an eye to
17:09:37 13 that future, not an obsession with the past. Thank
17:09:41 14 you.

17:09:42 15 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. And that was
17:09:44 16 Susan Comfort. Next Dana Driscoll, please.

17:09:50 17 **Commenter 15** MS. DRISCOLL: My name is Dana Driscoll.
17:09:53 18 I'm a resident of Indiana County for the last 11 years
17:09:55 19 and I've spent most of my life living in Western PA. I
17:09:58 20 work full-time here and I also have a farm. I'm
17:10:00 21 speaking in strong opposition to this permit and to the
17:10:02 22 entire Homer City redevelopment project. I grew up in
17:10:07 23 Cambria County, where nearly all of our local streams
17:10:09 24 are polluted from acid mine drainage.

17:10:09 25 What the AMD situation in Pennsylvania

17:10:11 1 shows is that industries never clean up their pollution
17:10:14 2 and the permanent damage to waterways from said
17:10:16 3 industries is a centuries-old problem.

17:10:19 4 We see from this historical legacy is
17:10:21 5 that we need strong environmental protections, not just
17:10:24 6 at the start of projects but well after the bubble
17:10:27 7 bursts, and the companies takes their cash and leave.
17:10:29 8 And there is strong evidence that this AI bubble will
17:10:32 9 burst.

17:10:32 10 At present, there is a one million
17:10:35 11 gallon oil spill in Washington County, PA that the DEP
17:10:39 12 has done nothing to address. This is a concrete
17:10:39 13 example in Pennsylvania of what can go wrong with this
17:10:43 14 pipeline. I lived and worked in Michigan during the
17:10:45 15 Flint River oil spill and I saw it firsthand. This is
17:10:48 16 an example where the lack of environmental regulations
17:10:51 17 and the lack of monitoring cause significant harm. I
17:10:54 18 also live in Michigan during the construction of
17:10:58 19 Enbridge's Line 5B which carries liquid natural gas
17:10:59 20 just like the proposed pipeline. I witnessed firsthand
17:11:02 21 the ecological and community destruction of the
17:11:05 22 pipeline, not only across streams and wetlands with
17:11:08 23 problematic things, like sent backfill and
17:11:09 24 deforestation just as this pipeline proposed, but also
17:11:12 25 the long-term impact of this pipeline along surrounding

17:11:16 1 communities and homes. We do not want this here.

17:11:18 2 As someone currently has a farm, I'm
17:11:20 3 also very concerned about the destruction of streams
17:11:22 4 and wetlands with the ongoing droughts we're now facing
17:11:25 5 in Pennsylvania. My farm is in the watershed that this
17:11:27 6 pipeline will be impacting. I am deeply concerned
17:11:29 7 about water use for this whole project and the fact
17:11:32 8 that it will compromise people's drinking water, water
17:11:34 9 for agriculture and water for all life. And I will
17:11:36 10 note, that we have no idea how much water is actually
17:11:39 11 going to be used by this project.

17:11:41 12 On January 20th, 2026, the United
17:11:45 13 Nations has indicated that the world has entered a
17:11:48 14 global bankruptcy with over 70 percent of the
17:11:51 15 population globally as water insecure. This is evident
17:11:53 16 all through the country and in our own ecosystem with
17:11:57 17 the droughts. Right now, this very moment we're
17:11:58 18 thankfully not in a drought but most of the rest of the
17:12:01 19 United States is. And if you look at the drought
17:12:03 20 monitor, you'll see it's actually one of the worst
17:12:05 21 droughts we have ever experienced in the lifetimes.

17:12:08 22 Since I'm on the land every day with the
17:12:10 23 farm, I can tell you that since 2020 due to climate
17:12:12 24 change we now have yearly droughts. We had a drought
17:12:15 25 in 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025 and last - last year we

17:12:19 1 had a flash drought in July which started with almost
17:12:23 2 11 months of - or 11 weeks of no rain, and we will only
17:12:28 3 out of that drought in February of 2026.

17:12:30 4 Maybe there's a pattern here. The
17:12:32 5 pattern is that under increasing drought stress making
17:12:36 6 water resources scarcer and more polluter - polluted is
17:12:39 7 a problem. We cannot afford to destroy our watershed.

17:12:42 8 What I have outlined above is that we
17:12:44 9 have ample evidence that pipelines like this destroy
17:12:46 10 our streams, and waterways, imperil our watershed and
17:12:50 11 leave a lasting legacy of negative impact on community
17:12:53 12 health and environment. We have it happening right now
17:12:55 13 in Washington County. We saw it in Michigan and we
17:12:58 14 will see it in Indiana County if this is approved.
17:13:00 15 This ecosystem already under duress from multiple
17:13:04 16 yearly droughts and changing climate cannot handle the
17:13:07 17 destruction of what they are proposing.

17:13:09 18 My primary request is to deny this
17:13:11 19 pipeline and to deny this entire project. It is
17:13:13 20 against the Pennsylvania Environmental Rights Amendment
17:13:16 21 and has the potential to deny every citizen of Indiana
17:13:18 22 County access to clean air, pure water and the
17:13:21 23 preservation of the ecosystem.

17:13:23 24 If you insist on moving forward, then I
17:13:26 25 have other points for you to consider. My question is

17:13:28 1 after this pipeline is constructed, how will you
17:13:30 2 monitor it regularly in case of spills so we can avoid
17:13:33 3 what happened in Washington and in Michigan?

17:13:35 4 Given what happened in Washington
17:13:38 5 County, I'm also requesting that you set up a permanent
17:13:42 6 fund that's for us to address spills, a fund that the
17:13:43 7 company pays upfront to ensure we can clean up messes.

17:13:47 8 As I've shared above, many extracted
17:13:49 9 industries have come and gone, and we have a legacy of
17:13:52 10 their polluted rivers and streams throughout our entire
17:13:55 11 watershed. How can the DEP ensure that even if this
17:13:59 12 project too fails because we are in a bubble, the
17:14:02 13 community will not have to bear the long-term burden of
17:14:05 14 more pollution. Thank you.

17:14:09 15 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. I'm going to
17:14:12 16 ask that - Jessica, just - just two seconds, I'm going
17:14:15 17 to ask that Jay Ting Walker lines up, Tamara Whited,
17:14:21 18 please, Kathy Eckenrode, please, and Jane Kaminski,
17:14:26 19 please. Go ahead Jessica.

17:14:28 20 **Commenter 16** MS. JOPP: Hello. My name is Jessica
17:14:30 21 Jopp. My comments today will focus on the frack gas
17:14:34 22 component of the plan. The evidence I present comes
17:14:37 23 from years of environmental and health-related
17:14:39 24 degradation experienced by Pennsylvanians from the
17:14:43 25 fracking industry.

17:14:43 1 Here's what a frack gas pipeline brings,
17:14:45 2 a two-year investigation was conducted by the
17:14:48 3 Environmental Health News in Southwestern Pennsylvania
17:14:50 4 to determine the extent of harm from people fracking.
17:14:53 5 The reporter Kristina Marusic details some of the
17:14:58 6 physical and mental strain her study found, unexplained
17:15:02 7 nose bleeds, rashes and migraines are just some of the
17:15:04 8 health problems reported by residents who live near
17:15:08 9 fracking activity.

17:15:08 10 The researchers tested people's urine
17:15:09 11 for fracking chemicals. She explains that they
17:15:12 12 collected samples in the study for about a nine-week
17:15:15 13 period. We had a lab look for the fracking chemicals,
17:15:17 14 things like benzene, toluene and volatile organic
17:15:21 15 chemicals. They found that these families had
17:15:23 16 significant higher than average levels lot of these
17:15:26 17 compounds. All 20 people in the study exceeded not
17:15:29 18 only the average but also the 95th percentile, which is
17:15:32 19 the level that 95 percent of Americans fall below for
17:15:35 20 some of these chemicals.

17:15:37 21 One example, a urine sample for one day
17:15:40 22 from nine-year-old boy who hung around his house that
17:15:43 23 same day, showed a level of hippuric acid, a biomarker
17:15:48 24 that forms when the body is exposed to toluene that was
17:15:50 25 nearly five times as high as the U.S. 95th percentile.

17:15:55 1 Toluene is linked to skin, eye and respiratory
17:15:58 2 irritation, drowsiness and dizziness. With chronic
17:16:01 3 exposure, it can cause infertility or damage to the
17:16:02 4 nervous system, liver and kidneys.

17:16:05 5 They interviewed a father whose well
17:16:08 6 water contaminated. He was told by the DEP and the
17:16:12 7 fracking company that they should just switch to
17:16:15 8 bottled water to be safe. Ryan, his son, who was two
17:16:16 9 years old when the well went in developed rashes and
17:16:19 10 he's had pretty severe gastrointestinal problems; his
17:16:22 11 asthma became worse. They're drinking bottled water
17:16:25 12 but they still have to bathe in well water. And Ryan
17:16:28 13 has come out of the shower multiple times with sores on
17:16:31 14 his body, presumably from bathing in this contaminated
17:16:33 15 water.

17:16:34 16 Given that thousands of households in
17:16:36 17 our region rely daily on well water, the concern here
17:16:38 18 for both physical and mental health cannot be
17:16:40 19 overstated.

17:16:41 20 A study indicated that people are
17:16:43 21 exposed to toxins through the water and also through
17:16:45 22 air emissions from the sites. Clearly, people living
17:16:48 23 near these fracking wells are sickened but it's looking
17:16:52 24 more and more like it's a larger region and a larger
17:16:55 25 number of people who are impacted by these emissions

17:16:57 1 than we used to think.

17:16:58 2 What does this record of harm mean for
17:17:00 3 the current context? Here are the estimates. With the
17:17:03 4 average production of a Pennsylvania gas well and mine,
17:17:06 5 250 new frack gas wells would have to be drilled to
17:17:10 6 supply the Homer City plant. Since well production
17:17:13 7 plummets after just a few years, another 250 wells
17:17:16 8 would need to be drilled every five years or so.

17:17:19 9 Let's look at the legacy of degradation
17:17:22 10 we will be adding onto if this pipeline plan goes
17:17:24 11 through. A recent investigation into fracking waste in
17:17:27 12 Pennsylvania reveals lax oversight, increased
17:17:29 13 radioactivity, and frack waste and evidence of water
17:17:32 14 contamination.

17:17:33 15 This January 2026 article references the
17:17:36 16 waste being produced. The estimate is 8.8 million tons
17:17:41 17 of solid waste from 2017 to 2024. Kiley Bense, the
17:17:47 18 reporter, says that because the - the DEP is very
17:17:50 19 understaffed they haven't had the resources to do regular
17:17:53 20 audits of these numbers.

17:17:54 21 She further cites new research using DEP
17:17:57 22 records where they found that the radioactivity in the
17:18:00 23 fracking waste that's being produced over the last few
17:18:02 24 years is actually much worse, much more radioactive
17:18:06 25 than the DEP's earlier numbers.

17:18:08 1 And regarding landfills, these are -
17:18:10 2 there are special alarms that are in use at the
17:18:13 3 entrances to landfills that go off when the truckload
17:18:17 4 exceeds a certain amount of radioactivity.

17:18:19 5 In 2023, alarms at landfills in
17:18:22 6 Pennsylvania went off more than 500 times because of
17:18:25 7 oil and gas waste. Okay. Horrifying.

17:18:31 8 At least 23 landfills accept oil and gas
17:18:35 9 waste. Investigators found mounting evidence that this
17:18:37 10 ever-increasing volume is harming the streams, creeks
17:18:41 11 and rivers where Pennsylvanians fish, swim, kayak and
17:18:43 12 source drinking water.

17:18:44 13 Simply put, the pipeline would mean more
17:18:47 14 fracked gas wells, and would bring with it more
17:18:50 15 poisoning of the air, soil and water; more dire health
17:18:52 16 consequences.

17:18:53 17 I have a new questions. Where can the
17:18:56 18 public find the results of an environmental impact
17:18:58 19 study that addresses this component of the project? A
17:19:01 20 follow-up to this question. Has the DEP demonstrated
17:19:05 21 this project will not degrade water quality? How is
17:19:08 22 the DEP currently addressing this legacy of pollution?
17:19:11 23 What procedures are in place or will be in place for
17:19:14 24 the impending tremendous burden of additional toxic
17:19:18 25 waste if this project is build?

17:19:20 1 DEP's mission includes a commitment to
17:19:23 2 protect our air, land, and water resources and to
17:19:26 3 provide for the health and safety of the state's
17:19:28 4 residence.

17:19:29 5 In keeping with your mission, I urge the
17:19:31 6 DEP to deny this permit and work to repair the legacy
17:19:35 7 of pollution rather than facilitate continued harm.

17:19:38 8 MS. KOEHLE: Jessica, -

17:19:39 9 MS. JOPP: I look forward to -

17:19:39 10 MS. KOEHLE: - Jessica -.

17:19:41 11 MS. JOPP: - to receiving the
17:19:41 12 Department's answers to these concerns. Thank you.

17:19:43 13 MS. KOEHLE: Oh, thank you. Perfect
17:19:45 14 timing Jessica. All right. Up next is Jay.

17:19:49 15 **Commenter 17** MR. WALKER: My name is Jay Ting Walker.
17:19:52 16 I'm an Organizer for Clean Air Council. The Council is
17:19:54 17 a nonprofit environmental health organization that has
17:19:57 18 been working to protect everyone's right to breathe
17:20:00 19 clean air for over 50 year. I'm here to comment on the
17:20:03 20 pipeline.

17:20:03 21 The Council's most concerned about the
17:20:05 22 health of local waterways that are designated as
17:20:08 23 cold-water fisheries, CWF, and also considered impaired
17:20:11 24 by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
17:20:14 25 Protection because of siltation caused by the erosion

17:20:16 1 of soil.

17:20:16 2 At six separate stream crossings, Stream
17:20:20 3 6, 20, 67, 25, 28; 48, Homer City is proposing to use
17:20:26 4 cement-modified backfill when refilling trenches dug
17:20:30 5 for pipeline construction.

17:20:31 6 Homer City's Chapter 102 permit
17:20:34 7 application fails to address why this is necessary or
17:20:36 8 even explain the exact makeup of cement-modified
17:20:36 9 backfill.

17:20:40 10 Homer City's permit application merely
17:20:42 11 says that trenches will be backfill with, and I quote,
17:20:45 12 suitable material. Cement-modified soil is a mixture
17:20:47 13 of soil, water and cement. DEP should require Homer
17:20:51 14 City to detail the exact mix used by Homer City, and
17:20:54 15 additionally require Homer City to detail where this
17:20:57 16 mixing will occur in its Erosion and Sedimentation
17:20:57 17 Control Plan.

17:21:00 18 Cement-modified soil is generally used
17:21:03 19 in the construction of buildings, parking lots and
17:21:04 20 roadways. Homer City should be required to detail
17:21:07 21 previous use of cement-modified backfill in pipeline
17:21:10 22 construction and specifically provide images of
17:21:12 23 construction projects along or crossing waterways where
17:21:16 24 cement-modified soil was used.

17:21:18 25 Cement-modified soils are not usually

17:21:20 1 used in pervious areas such as stream embankments. It
17:21:23 2 is very possible that cement-modified backfill will
17:21:25 3 create impervious surfaces in forested areas along
17:21:27 4 streams, degrading natural areas.

17:21:29 5 Regarding the crossing of Stream 67,
17:21:34 6 cement-modified backfill is also properly directed
17:21:35 7 directly adjacent to Wetland 36A and Stream 66. It
17:21:40 8 appears likely that cement could erode into this
17:21:42 9 wetland and stream potentially destroying it.

17:21:44 10 Cement-modified backfill was also
17:21:46 11 proposed directly on the bank of Stream 25 creating the
17:21:48 12 additional risk that cement could erode directly into
17:21:52 13 this stream. Cement-modified backfill is additionally
17:21:54 14 proposed on both sides of Stream 48, increasing the
17:21:57 15 risk that cement could erode into this body water and
17:22:00 16 further contaminate it. Stream 48 is also considered,
17:22:03 17 quote, intermittent, meaning that its flow changes
17:22:06 18 depending on groundwater levels and precipitation.
17:22:08 19 This particularly sensitive body of water deserves
17:22:11 20 additional protections from DEP, not cement on both
17:22:14 21 sides.

17:22:14 22 Considering the potential environmental
17:22:17 23 damage caused by the use of cement-modified backfill,
17:22:20 24 it's concerning that this project is supported by \$5
17:22:23 25 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, RACP

17:22:26 1 awarded grants awarded by the Pennsylvania Office of
17:22:30 2 the Budget.

17:22:30 3 This drilling method is recognized as
17:22:32 4 one that leads to what's known as, quote, inadvertent
17:22:35 5 returns. Just last year pipeline company MarkWest lost
17:22:39 6 over one million gallons of drilling fluid underground
17:22:43 7 while using this method to construct a new pipeline in
17:22:46 8 Washington County with no accountability.

17:22:48 9 In sum, DEP should not issue the
17:22:51 10 proposed permit as written due to major technical legal
17:22:54 11 deficiencies. At minimum, DEP require Homer City to
17:22:58 12 explain its use of, quote, cement-modified backfill and
17:23:01 13 provide examples of its use in pipeline construction,
17:23:04 14 particularly at stream crossings and adjacent to
17:23:07 15 wetlands.

17:23:07 16 In addition, Pennsylvania should not be
17:23:08 17 spending public money to lock Indiana County into
17:23:11 18 decades of additional fossil fuel pollution. Residents
17:23:15 19 deserve better. They should not be asked to absorb
17:23:18 20 health risks and environmental damage while
17:23:20 21 corporations benefit. Thank you.

17:23:22 22 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. Up next is
17:23:28 23 Tamara Whited.

17:23:30 24 **Commenter 13** MS. WHITED: I'm a 31-year resident of
17:23:32 25 Indiana. Thank you for this opportunity.

1 The proposed 5.8 mile pipeline set to
2 conduct the Texas Eastern Pipeline to the Homer City
3 power plant will serve as the final link in the chain
4 as it were to deliver fracked natural gas to the plant
5 for the generation of electricity.

6 I will focus my comment today on
7 arguably the largest consequence of application
8 approval. And that is the contribution to climate
9 change of a projected 4.5 gigawatt power plant burning
10 what is mostly methane. I will consider only the
11 combustion of that natural gas and not the inevitable
12 leaking of methane.

13 The public was duly informed last year
14 that this will constitute the largest natural gas power
15 plant in the country, although the South Mon Energy
16 facility might end up rivaling that. We seem to have a
17 bit of intrastate one-upmanship going on.

18 That aside, the power approval for the
19 generating station issued by DEP has a maximum
20 allowable CO2 limit of about 17 and a half million tons
21 per year.

22 For sake of comparison, this amount is
23 equivalent to emissions from the exhaust of some
24 150,000 gas-powered vehicles driving continuously at 30
25 miles per hour, using standard EPA measures for

1 exhaust. And that's traffic of a major metro area
2 during rush hour, every hour. These projected
3 emissions will largely exceed the peak emissions from
4 the coal-fired power plant at Homer City during the
5 late 1990s and early 2000s, CO2 emissions for those
6 years totaling between 13 and 14 million tons per year.

7 In short, this power plant will not be
8 cleaner than coal when it comes to the molecule that
9 will be most decisive for a common future.

10 Pennsylvania consistently ranks 4th
11 among the 50 states for CO2 emissions. On a per capita
12 basis, it is arguably worse if one considers only the
13 the more populous states in this population. I'm
14 leaving the smaller or less populated states like
15 Wyoming and North Dakota, because they're really -
16 they're off the charts per capita.

17 But from this perspective, only Texas
18 makes a higher per capita contribution to carbon
19 pollution than we do. A great deal of past permitting
20 has enabled these facts, including some permitting in
21 the past several decades when we can say that, yes, we
22 knew better.

23 The per capita analysis is very
24 important because the people of this Commonwealth are
25 asked to contribute disproportionately to carbon

17:26:04 1 pollution. These plants creating even more fossil fuel
17:26:08 2 path dependency being planned in our name to impact
17:26:10 3 future demonstrations catastrophically.

17:26:14 4 As a citizen of the Commonwealth, I find
17:26:16 5 this unconscionable. So where is the carbon capture
17:26:19 6 and storage technology that should be mandated for this
17:26:23 7 project that is my first question to you today?

17:26:25 8 Leading into my second question, let us
17:26:27 9 consider the threats and the costs to Pennsylvanians
17:26:30 10 now and in the years to come. We've already seen an
17:26:34 11 upteek - uptick (changes pronunciation) in heat-related
17:26:35 12 injuries and school closures since many schools in
17:26:38 13 Pennsylvania do not have air conditioning.

17:26:41 14 DEP's own publication, Pennsylvania
17:26:43 15 Climate Impact Assessment 2024 cites a myriad of
17:26:47 16 impacts if we continue with the business as usual
17:26:50 17 scenario.

17:26:51 18 From the effects I just cited to
17:26:53 19 heatstroke, to increased rates of tick-borne illnesses,
17:26:56 20 to increased rates of miscarriage, and preterm births
17:27:00 21 and so many more. And all of this in a Pennsylvania
17:27:03 22 projected to be 5.9 degrees Fahrenheit warmer by
17:27:08 23 mid-century than the 1971 to 2000 baseline. That is
17:27:12 24 DEP's projection.

17:27:14 25 What will it cost us in dollars and

1 cents? According to the Center for Climate Integrity,
2 Pennsylvania's municipalities alone, not the state,
3 will be shelling out some \$15.47 billion in mitigation
4 projects by 2040.

5 Given all of this, how exactly does
6 approval of this pipeline align with the constitution
7 of the Commonwealth? DEP knows I am referring to
8 Article 1, Section 27 passed by a supermajority of
9 voters in early 1970s, which guarantees specific
10 environmental rights to Pennsylvanians now and in the
11 future. DEP is the functional trustee here. I might
12 also mention our state's Climate Action Plan, which
13 ought to be binding on permitting decisions.

14 My asked to is that you deny the permit
15 application under review, with the understanding that
16 the power plant project simply does not represent the
17 best available technology to produce electricity for
18 the real needs of people, and that the only worthwhile
19 race we are woefully behind in in this Commonwealth is
20 the race to build that renewable energy infrastructure.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you.

23 Kathy Eckenrode is next. But let me
24 call a few people to get lined up, please. So after
25 Kathy, you have Jay Kaminski, then Amanda Oaks, Leigh

17:28:38 1 Hendrix, and then Garnet Fryling and Shaffer Fryling
17:28:42 2 Douglas. Go ahead.

17:28:44 3 **Commenter 18** MS. ECKENRODE: Okay. Hello. My name
17:28:45 4 is Kathy. I would like to thank DEP for having this
17:28:50 5 meeting and also the management here at Indiana
17:28:54 6 Theatre.

17:28:56 7 The 4.5 gigawatt gas power plant and the
17:29:00 8 AI data center campus proposed by Homer City
17:29:04 9 Redevelopment poses significant environmental risk,
17:29:07 10 public health and socioeconomic impacts for the
17:29:10 11 resident of Homer City and Indiana County, Pennsylvania
17:29:14 12 residents. Some of the proponents of this project
17:29:17 13 allege it promises economic benefits. The data center
17:29:21 14 will be the largest in the country, excuse me, on coal.
17:29:26 15 However, the negative - negatives appear to outweigh
17:29:29 16 any of the positives this project could ever offer the
17:29:33 17 community. I want to read to you Article 1, Section 27
17:29:38 18 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

17:29:41 19 The people have a right to clean air,
17:29:44 20 pure water and the preservation of natural scenic
17:29:50 21 historic aesthetic values of the environmental.
17:29:54 22 Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common
17:29:57 23 property of all the people, including generations yet
17:30:01 24 to come. As trustees of these resources, the
17:30:04 25 Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the

17:30:08 1 benefit of all people. That's Pennsylvania
17:30:12 2 Constitution Article 1, Section 27.

17:30:15 3 Please remember these words throughout
17:30:17 4 this meeting, the pipeline is 5.8 miles and will
17:30:21 5 support a 4.5 gigawatt gas-fired plant, as I stated,
17:30:26 6 that is being built to support the biggest AI data
17:30:30 7 center in the U.S. to the tune of \$10 billion. The
17:30:34 8 pipeline project will transgress over multiple streams,
17:30:38 9 wetlands, tributaries and road crossings. The quality
17:30:42 10 and noise levels during this construction will be
17:30:46 11 compromised. A comprehensive impact study was not
17:30:51 12 done. This pipeline is in direct violation of the
17:30:54 13 Pennsylvania Constitution. And for that reason, the
17:30:57 14 pipeline permit should be dismissed. There is
17:31:00 15 significant environmental injustices with this whole
17:31:05 16 permit project.

17:31:07 17 The environmental justice mandates that
17:31:10 18 all people, regardless of race or income are entitled
17:31:15 19 to the same degree of protections from environmental
17:31:19 20 hazards. The Homer City project violates these
17:31:23 21 principles. There has been little to no community
17:31:27 22 engagement from DEP until this meeting. DEP has failed
17:31:32 23 to follow its very own environmental justice quality
17:31:35 24 --- policies. DEP has fast-tracked the permits for
17:31:41 25 this project. There's been inadequate outreach to the

17:31:44 1 residents who will bear the burden of the poor quality,
17:31:48 2 and air quality, water pollution and the health
17:31:52 3 problems into the future.

17:31:54 4 The gas plant is expected to release
17:31:56 5 hundreds of tons of pollutants in five particulate
17:32:00 6 matter, including toxic ammonia. These chemicals and
17:32:04 7 pollutants are known to cause respiratory problems,
17:32:08 8 cancer and heart disease. These pollutants and toxins
17:32:11 9 will be concentrated into an already public health
17:32:15 10 disadvantaged rural community still recovering from the
17:32:18 11 health effects of preexisting coal mines and coal-fired
17:32:22 12 power plant. Has DEP done a comprehensive air quality
17:32:26 13 and public health study?

17:32:28 14 The Pennsylvania Environmental Rights
17:32:31 15 Health - Environmental Rights Amendment guarantees the
17:32:34 16 right to clean air and pure water for current and all
17:32:38 17 future generations. The residents needs to be assured
17:32:42 18 of having a clean continuous water supply into the
17:32:45 19 future, keeping the rates the same and they need to be
17:32:48 20 assured that they have clean water throughout a
17:32:51 21 drought. Has DEP done a comprehensive impact water
17:32:55 22 study? Residents have the right to know where Homer
17:33:00 23 City Redevelopment and the investors are planning on
17:33:02 24 getting all the water from this magnitude of a project.

17:33:06 25 There has been claimed made that the

17:33:08 1 data center will be cleaner than the old coal-fired -
17:33:13 2 powered coal-fired power plant. However, it will still
17:33:15 3 result in massive amounts of emissions and pollutions.

17:33:19 4 This has been - this was a really big
17:33:21 5 eye opener in my research. The gas plant is expected
17:33:25 6 to produce 17 million tons of carbon dioxide, that's
17:33:30 7 CO2, per year. This is an unprecedented amount of
17:33:34 8 green - greenhouse gas emissions and it's going to
17:33:38 9 happen right here in Indiana County. Has DEP done a
17:33:42 10 comprehensive impact study on the release of this
17:33:46 11 greenhouse gas emission?

17:33:47 12 How will -

17:33:47 13 MS. KOEHLE: Ms. Eckenrode, I'm sorry,
17:33:49 14 your time is up. But I will take your testimony.

17:33:51 15 MS. ECKENRODE: - how will this affect
17:33:53 16 public health on the residents? I'm going to quickly
17:33:56 17 conclude this. But I have a lot of questions on the
17:34:03 18 water situation. Has an impact study been done on
17:34:07 19 where all of this you water is going to come for this
17:34:09 20 project?

17:34:10 21 MS. KOEHLE: Ms. Eckenrode, we can - we
17:34:12 22 - we have - we need to have time for everyone.

17:34:13 23 MS. ECKENRODE: In conclusion, since I
17:34:15 24 have one minute left, even if something appears to be
17:34:18 25 legal, it can still be wrong - the wrong thing to do.

17:34:21 1 The Homer City data center project will reverse the
17:34:26 2 progress that has been -.

17:34:26 3 MS. KOEHLE: Ms. Eckenrode, everyone has
17:34:28 4 signed up for five minutes. I'm not being rude. But I
17:34:31 5 can take the testimony and it will have as much weight
17:34:34 6 as the verbal testimony. Okay? I'm sorry, but I want
17:34:36 7 to make sure everyone gets their chance.

17:34:36 8 MS. ECKENRODE: I will conclude. But
17:34:36 9 okay.

17:34:39 10 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. All right.
17:34:43 11 Next up is Jane Kaminski, please.

17:34:45 12 [Commenter 19](#) MS. KAMINSKI: My name is Jane Kaminski.
17:34:46 13 First name is spelled J-A-N-E last name K-A-M-I-S-K-I.
17:34:51 14 I appose this permit. I live and work in Indiana
17:34:54 15 County where I am a full-time farmer. Our farmland is
17:34:58 16 in the Blacklick Creek watershed. In fact, our land
17:35:00 17 abuts Blacklick Creek. And we take care to farm in
17:35:04 18 ways that protect our natural resources.

17:35:06 19 I am deeply concerned that the Homer
17:35:09 20 City power plant pipeline, the fracked gas power plant
17:35:12 21 and proposed AI data center are threatening
17:35:15 22 environmental and human health in our community.

17:35:18 23 As a farmer, I depend on healthy water,
17:35:20 24 soil and air to grow healthy food. And as a resident,
17:35:23 25 I've had higher hopes for the future of Indiana County

17:35:26 1 than continuing our legacy of land and water
17:35:29 2 degradation.

17:35:30 3 This project has taken me by surprise,
17:35:33 4 seeming to come out of nowhere. Where and when was the
17:35:36 5 community process? And if there really was one, can it
17:35:39 6 be said that it truly and meaningfully engaged
17:35:42 7 residents?

17:35:43 8 The Homer City development has made no
17:35:45 9 real effort engage us in their project, accept our
17:35:49 10 input or build trust. We deserve to know how this
17:35:51 11 pipeline came to be proposed and all of the impacts it
17:35:54 12 could have. We deserve transparency.

17:35:59 13 As a farmer, I strive to do right by the
17:36:01 14 land and water resources I utilize. But I realize my
17:36:04 15 efforts are meaningless when compared to the scale of
17:36:07 16 potential disturbance and destruction resulting from
17:36:09 17 projects just like this one.

17:36:11 18 We've all seen the generations-old
17:36:15 19 orange water in Blacklick Creek. There's a lot of
17:36:17 20 positive work being done on a meaningful scale to
17:36:20 21 remedy that problem. So why would we allow the project
17:36:23 22 to go forward that could potentially set back these
17:36:25 23 water restoration efforts by years and directly
17:36:29 24 recontaminate the very same water we have been working
17:36:31 25 so hard to improve? Why would we potentially

17:36:33 1 exacerbate the pollution of our watershed by piling on
17:36:37 2 more environmental problems? I believe that any
17:36:40 3 further damage to our watershed and ecosystem is
17:36:43 4 inexcusable.

17:36:44 5 My questions are, what plans are place
17:36:47 6 to restore disturbed waterways, plant and animal
17:36:50 7 habitats? Has current water usage by residents, farms
17:36:54 8 and recreationalists been thoroughly analyzed to
17:36:58 9 understand the scope and importance of water quality in
17:37:01 10 our area, and the effect that this pipeline will have
17:37:03 11 on our water use now and decades in the future?

17:37:06 12 And lastly, how are you going to protect
17:37:08 13 us? Thank you.

17:37:11 14 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. Next up we have
17:37:16 15 Amanda Oaks, then Leigh Hendrix, Garnet Fryling and
17:37:20 16 Shaffer Fryling Douglas.

17:37:22 17 **Commenter 20** MS. OAKS: Hi, I'm Amanda. I've lived
17:37:25 18 in Indiana County most of my life. I moved to Homer
17:37:28 19 City in 2020, when the coal plant was operating about
17:37:31 20 20 percent capacity. We all knew its closure was
17:37:35 21 inevitable. I came here to be closer to Indiana to
17:37:38 22 build a life with my family, around a community I was
17:37:41 23 already part of and to support my child with profound
17:37:45 24 special needs.

17:37:46 25 Over the years, I've grown to love Homer

17:37:49 1 City, the people, the organizations, the small
17:37:52 2 businesses. I'm an active member of my community. I'm
17:37:56 3 involved in the arts organize mutual aid; host open
17:38:01 4 mics right here in this theater. I also sit on the
17:38:03 5 Homer Center's Public Library Board and volunteer there
17:38:06 6 regularly. As I said, I love where I live.

17:38:11 7 When Home City Redevelopment demolished
17:38:14 8 the smoke stacks last year residents were informed only
17:38:17 9 days beforehand and I'm still in disbelief of what I
17:38:20 10 witnessed that day. Just a week or two later, the new
17:38:24 11 project was announced as though it - we were already a
17:38:28 12 done deal with no community input. Since then, our
17:38:31 13 community has tolerated consistent demolition blasts
17:38:36 14 echoing across the entire region while receiving almost
17:38:40 15 no meaningful outreach.

17:38:42 16 Since this project announced, many of us
17:38:45 17 have been learning about the environmental and health
17:38:47 18 impacts, worrying about our water supply and
17:38:50 19 questioning what this means for the future values of
17:38:52 20 our homes.

17:38:53 21 It is not lost on me that our school
17:38:55 22 district has struggled since the coal plant closed, but
17:38:59 23 now we are being forced to accept the largest frack gas
17:39:03 24 power plant in Pennsylvania being built in our back
17:39:06 25 yards to power AI that will eventually be used to

1 surveil and take our jobs. Our we just expected to
2 live with that, to live, work and raise our children in
3 the shadow of what could be, again, become the largest
4 polluter in the state?

5 The proposed pipeline will disturb more
6 than 100 acres of land near over 100 households along a
7 6 mile stretch. How many of those families rely on
8 well water? The proposed line crosses dozens of
9 streams that feed into Blacklick Creek. People in our
10 community have spent years volunteering to clean up the
11 damage left by the coal industry and they're still
12 doing it. Are we really going to risk further
13 polluting these waterways?

14 What is happening here feels like
15 another chapter in a long history of extraction and
16 exploitation. Our air, our water, our land and our
17 communities have carried the burden of industrial
18 pollution for generations. Families have already paid
19 the price with their health.

20 At the same time, we're watching tech
21 companies aggressively expand AI infrastructure
22 nationwide while openly discussing AI's role in warfare
23 and surveillance. We've watched our elected officials
24 support fast-track permitting for these massive AI data
25 center projects.

17:40:30 1 Across party lines, politicians at every
17:40:35 2 level of government continue to fall in line with Big
17:40:39 3 Tech and Big Oil, while the people most affected are
17:40:41 4 ignored.

17:40:42 5 My questions are, what steps will be
17:40:45 6 taken to make sure our streams and private water
17:40:48 7 supplies are protected from future harm? Will there be
17:40:53 8 ongoing monitoring of well water and waterways after
17:40:56 9 the pipeline construction is finished? Do we have
17:40:59 10 enough available water to support the entire proposed
17:41:03 11 project? Who exactly will benefit from this project?
17:41:07 12 I'm not convinced Homer City will. Thank you.

17:41:10 13 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. All right. Up
17:41:22 14 next is Leigh Hendrix.

17:41:22 15 [Commenter 21](#) MS. HENDRIX: Hi, my name is Leigh
17:41:24 16 Hendrix. That's L-E-I-G-H H-E-N-D-R-I-X. And I live
17:41:28 17 in Indiana County.

17:41:28 18 And I am here today to speak against
17:41:31 19 this project because I care deeply about my neighbors
17:41:34 20 in this community's health, and the health of the land,
17:41:37 21 air and water where we make our home. And I'm hearing
17:41:41 22 a lot of people do, too, and saying a lot of these
17:41:46 23 things that I'm concerned about.

17:41:48 24 This pipeline, along with the fracked
17:41:49 25 gas power plant and its promised data center that this

17:41:51 1 pipeline will serve puts our home at risk. It puts the
17:41:55 2 well-being of our land, and air, and water at risk and
17:41:58 3 that puts us, the people who live here at risk.

17:42:02 4 I am here to speak about the permit for
17:42:04 5 this pipeline because I am deeply concerned about the
17:42:06 6 lack of transparency and the fast-tracking of
17:42:09 7 permitting related to these massive projects.

17:42:12 8 The spread - the speed, rather, of the
17:42:16 9 process and the piecemeal nature of permitting helps
17:42:19 10 align the cumulative impacts on the community; it makes
17:42:22 11 us hard for us to get accurate information. This
17:42:25 12 pipeline in itself is an example of that. It will
17:42:28 13 cross dozens of tributaries not just one stream. So we
17:42:32 14 cannot separate things out as if the disturbances
17:42:35 15 created by building the pipeline can be readily
17:42:37 16 contained and will not contribute to existing
17:42:41 17 degradation of the watershed.

17:42:42 18 My question, has the DEP required a
17:42:45 19 cumulative impact analysis across all stream crossings?
17:42:48 20 The cumulative watershed impacts have to be considered
17:42:51 21 when making these permitting decisions. And I see -
17:42:54 22 this as - as the problem - a problem for all aspects of
17:42:58 23 Homer City Redevelopment's fracked gas power plant and
17:43:01 24 proposed gas center. Everything moving quickly and
17:43:04 25 quietly behind the scenes in order to push the projects

17:43:07 1 forward with as little input from the people of this
17:43:09 2 community as possible. It serves industry and
17:43:11 3 development when things move quickly and little
17:43:13 4 transparency.

17:43:14 5 And I am glad we are able to offer
17:43:16 6 public comment today. I'm glad to be hearing from
17:43:19 7 other people today. And I am also frustrated with how
17:43:22 8 many barriers are created that prevent everyday people
17:43:26 9 from having real information and opportunities to shape
17:43:28 10 what is happening in our communities. Because we live
17:43:31 11 here, and the cumulative impacts of this massive
17:43:34 12 project and the pipeline built to serve it will have
17:43:37 13 real effects on our quality of life as we've heard a
17:43:41 14 lot already.

17:43:42 15 Like the pipeline, it is not honest or
17:43:44 16 accurate to present the power plant and the data center
17:43:47 17 as if they are separate from the history of this land
17:43:50 18 already experienced decades of extracted development
17:43:54 19 that has had profound environmental and health impacts,
17:43:57 20 we know that. And this is an extension of that. We do
17:44:01 21 not need this pipeline to further risk this watershed,
17:44:04 22 and do not need this new power plant and dat project
17:44:09 23 that builds on old harm at our community's expense.

17:44:11 24 And so I ask that the DEP deny this
17:44:13 25 permit. Thank you.

17:44:15 1 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. All right. Up
17:44:21 2 next Garnet Fryling and Shaffer Fryling Douglas. Could
17:44:24 3 I have - excuse me if I pronounce this right - Jennica
17:44:31 4 Giroux next, and then Colleen Donovan, Sally Simpson
17:44:34 5 and Sara King, please? All right. You can all go
17:44:37 6 ahead.

17:44:38 7 [Commenter 22](#) MRS. FRYLING: Hello. My name is Garnet
17:44:40 8 and this is my son Shaffer. I am very grateful for
17:44:43 9 everyone's time and attention here today. I grew up in
17:44:45 10 Indiana County, and now I live here with my son, and my
17:44:49 11 husband and my daughter.

17:44:51 12 From what I understand, this project and
17:44:53 13 the power plant that it supports will bring a
17:44:55 14 significant risk of dangerous pollutants being released
17:44:59 15 into the surrounding water and air. I believe it's a
17:45:02 16 childhood right to play in the creek, that's Western
17:45:06 17 PA's name for creek.

17:45:07 18 I need to know if the water that my
17:45:08 19 children are playing in is safe. How will the local
17:45:11 20 populations know if there is a concern? Is there a
17:45:14 21 system in place to alert residents in case of any
17:45:17 22 dangerous air or water conditions?

17:45:19 23 Our waterways are unique, in that they
17:45:22 24 have been already polluted from past mining industry.
17:45:25 25 Have the unique properties of our waterways been

17:45:27 1 studies to ensure that new contaminants mixing with
17:45:30 2 existing chemical residues will not have any harmful
17:45:34 3 impacts?

17:45:34 4 I'm also concerned that any drought
17:45:36 5 modeling will not account for our unique environmental
17:45:40 6 conditions.

17:45:40 7 Finally, assuming that protections are
17:45:44 8 put in place, what will the consequences be for
17:45:45 9 violating guidelines? We have already seen that
17:45:47 10 businesses in this industry are ignoring regulations
17:45:49 11 and paying slap on the wrist fines if they're punched
17:45:51 12 at all. Will the consequences actually be meaningful
17:45:56 13 enough to fully discourage practices that we know harm
17:45:59 14 the water, land and people of this region?

17:46:02 15 My son would like to say something, too.

17:46:04 16 [Commenter 23](#) MR. FRYLING: Please don't mess with our
17:46:16 17 water, make money another way. Please don't cut down
17:46:22 18 any trees. We need water for us to drink, and animals
17:46:30 19 and we also need a drink for animals.

17:46:37 20 MRS. FRYLING: So he said don't mess
17:46:39 21 with the water, make money another way, please don't
17:46:42 22 cut down any trees, we need clean water for drinking
17:46:44 23 and for the animals. The animals need the trees.

17:46:47 24 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you both. Jennica?

17:46:55 25 [Commenter 24](#) MS. GIROUX: Thank you. And I

1 apologize, I'm pregnant, and that was very emotional so
2 if - I'm a little tearful.

3 Yeah, my name is Jennica Giroux. That's
4 J-E-N-N-I-C-A G-I-R-O-U-X. I live in Indiana County.
5 I was born and raised in Indiana, but moved out of
6 state after attending University of Pittsburgh from
7 2006 to 2010. I moved back to Indiana in 2017,
8 bringing my husband with me, and shortly after we
9 started our family and focused our energies on putting
10 down roots in our community. I am co-owner of Mother
11 Earth Farm PA located here in Indiana, along one of the
12 headwaters of Cherry Run.

13 A huge selling point to convince my
14 Florida native husband to move to Western Pennsylvania
15 was opportunity to start a small-scale farm and raise
16 our children immersed in the natural beauty the county
17 has to offer. We built our home on our farm in 2020
18 and watched the smoke stacks of the Homer City
19 generating station implode in 2025 from our back porch.

20 I'm here to speak about the permit for
21 this pipeline, because I'm concerned about the public
22 health and other downstream population impacts this
23 project will have on our community.

24 Pipeline drilling in our region can
25 often pollute stream and well water, both of which are

17:48:12 1 of our - both of which are of paramount concern for my
17:48:16 2 farm and my family's health. My children play not just
17:48:20 3 in the stream on our farm but enjoy many of the streams
17:48:23 4 throughout the county.

17:48:24 5 In addition, my family relies on well
17:48:27 6 water for our home and for our livestock which we
17:48:30 7 raise. How will the DEP ensure that streams and
17:48:33 8 private drinking water supplies are not impacted by
17:48:36 9 inadvertent returns during horizontal directional
17:48:39 10 drilling?

17:48:40 11 In addition to water pollution, I have
17:48:42 12 concerns about pollution from the plant and how that
17:48:44 13 may impact the prevalence of cancer for residents in
17:48:47 14 our community.

17:48:48 15 While I recognize we're gathered tonight
17:48:50 16 to specifically address the pipeline, I'd be remiss if
17:48:53 17 I didn't at least mention that my concerns about
17:48:56 18 pollution in our streams and air apply to the broader
17:48:59 19 aspects of the Homer City Redevelopment power plant and
17:49:03 20 proposed data center.

17:49:04 21 Furthermore, while the pollution
17:49:06 22 concerns I have can easily be tied to - directly to
17:49:09 23 impact of this proposed pipeline, I have concerns about
17:49:15 24 what this pipeline and larger redevelopment project
17:49:17 25 will mean from our community from a social standpoint.

17:49:20 1 As I mentioned, I moved back Indiana
17:49:22 2 County after living out of state for nearly a decade.
17:49:24 3 I lived in major metropolitan areas from Ohio to
17:49:28 4 Florida during that time. Moving back to rural Indiana
17:49:30 5 County was a decision that shocked a lot of my peers
17:49:33 6 from these metropolitan areas. And I know I am not the
17:49:36 7 only individual in this community who had left, and
17:49:40 8 decided to return to start a family and small business
17:49:43 9 here. That speaks to the appeal that Indiana County
17:49:46 10 has to offer.

17:49:47 11 My fear is that other young individuals,
17:49:49 12 after recognizing the negative impact on the
17:49:51 13 environment this pipeline and larger redevelopment
17:49:55 14 project will have will decide that Indiana County is no
17:49:57 15 longer a community they would like to return to.
17:50:00 16 Without young folks wanting to set roots down in this
17:50:03 17 community, and grow families and businesses, this
17:50:05 18 community was will lose its appeal and will forever be
17:50:08 19 changed.

17:50:09 20 Please deny this permit to ensure that
17:50:11 21 our vulnerable watershed is not further harmed by this
17:50:14 22 pipeline and to ensure our residents can continue to
17:50:17 23 enjoy the natural beauty Indiana County has to offer
17:50:20 24 without the fear of polluted water and increased cancer
17:50:24 25 rates.

17:50:24 1 Please deny this permit to ensure that
17:50:26 2 Indiana County continue to be a place that draws
17:50:29 3 individuals and families to lay down their roots.
17:50:32 4 Thank you.

17:50:32 5 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. Okay.

17:50:37 6 After Colleen, can I have Sally Simpson
17:50:40 7 line up, please, Sara King, Kat Marquez, Kurt Limbach;
17:50:46 8 Lynda Santos, please? And then go ahead Colleen,
17:50:52 9 please.

17:50:53 10 [Commenter 25](#) MS. DONOVAN: Hello. My name is Colleen
17:50:56 11 Donovan. That's C-O-L-L-E-E-N D-O-N-O-V-A-N. I live
17:51:00 12 in Indiana and I am a member of Ken Sink Trout
17:51:07 13 Unlimited. I'm also a volunteer with PaSEC or
17:51:10 14 Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corp.

17:51:14 15 As we know, the history of coal mining
17:51:16 16 in Appalachia shows us that corporations do not always
17:51:18 17 clean up their messes. Many of our streams in Indiana
17:51:22 18 County run orange. Refuse piles left behind by coal
17:51:27 19 companies long gone, dot the landscape.

17:51:30 20 It often takes people from the community
17:51:32 21 such as the Blacklick Creek Watershed Association,
17:51:37 22 among others to lead the - to lead in the clean up.
17:51:40 23 Just last week with friends of the parks, I tore the
17:51:44 24 Blacklick Creek treatment facility, an abandoned mine
17:51:48 25 drainage treatment plant near Vintondale. Funded by a

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1 combination of state and federal funds, it cost over 27
2 million to construct and will cost about \$600,000 a
3 year to operate.

4 On my part, I observed orange murky
5 water going in but clean water coming out into the
6 Blacklick Creek below. Many more of these treatment
7 plants have yet to be built. This is certain to result
8 in greater economic benefits downstream, but is it
9 meant to last?

10 New threats downstream have become
11 apparent, and so we're here to discuss the construction
12 permit for the pipeline intended to bring natural gas
13 to the Homer City site from one of the Mariner East
14 pipelines further south.

15 According to the DEP's website, the
16 Homer City power generation will become the largest
17 natural gas-powered plant in the country. A fossil
18 fuel burning facility of this size is certain to
19 threaten the environment. All of this to power a data
20 center.

21 And this is happening nationwide.
22 Nearly 3,000 new data centers are either under
23 construction or in the planning stages driven by high
24 demand for AI infrastructure. Why so many? Who is
25 going to clean up after the tech companies when this

17:53:18 1 bubble is over?

17:53:20 2 Pipeline construction is problematic.

17:53:22 3 According to an October 2021 article in the Tribune

17:53:26 4 Review drilling spills in the construction of the

17:53:29 5 Mariner East pipeline ruin wells and polluted streams.

17:53:33 6 And because of leaks and lost drilling fluids,

17:53:37 7 construction resulted in the damage to stream and water

17:53:40 8 supplies.

17:53:41 9 One contractor had 48 criminal

17:53:43 10 violations of the Clean Streams Law. Will it be

17:53:48 11 different this time? I doubt it. According to Three

17:53:55 12 Rivers Waterkeeper, the proposed pipeline will include

17:53:57 13 at least 21 stream crossings, including Blacklick

17:54:02 14 Creek, and its tributaries and multiple wetland

17:54:05 15 crossings.

17:54:06 16 What sort of oversight can we expect?

17:54:09 17 Does the DEP have the resources to observe, review and

17:54:13 18 enforce the requirements of the permit? What about the

17:54:17 19 people who live within the 2,000-foot buffer area? How

17:54:21 20 are their wells going to be protected? What entity

17:54:25 21 will be responsible if they lose their water?

17:54:29 22 I propose that the DEP delay this permit

17:54:32 23 until these questions can be addressed. Most people

17:54:35 24 would agree that caution is the best policy. However,

17:54:39 25 instead of caution, some want to accelerate the

17:54:43 1 permitting process.

17:54:44 2 According to Senator Dave McCormick's
17:54:49 3 website, he has introduced a bill that streamlines the
17:54:52 4 federal permitting process in order to speed up
17:54:56 5 construction.

17:54:56 6 In addition - in addition, according to
17:54:59 7 the May 7th article in the Tribune Review, Senator
17:55:04 8 McCormick defended the Homer City data center, stating
17:55:07 9 that the threats to the environment will not happen.

17:55:12 10 Not so fast Senator. Recent research
17:55:18 11 has shown that fracking wastewater is more radioactive
17:55:21 12 than previous understood. How can the public expect
17:55:25 13 transparency from entities that stand to gain
17:55:28 14 financially from these projects?

17:55:31 15 In sum, there's much unknown about these
17:55:34 16 data centers. In Indiana County and all over the
17:55:37 17 region, we know about the environmental effects of
17:55:39 18 fossil fuel extraction.

17:55:41 19 Local people will suffer the effects of
17:55:44 20 the environmental damage and they will be most likely
17:55:47 21 responsible for the clean up. The people who benefit
17:55:50 22 from the Homer City data center live far from Indiana
17:55:54 23 County.

17:55:55 24 This is our community. I ask that the
17:55:57 25 DEP delay or deny this permit.

17:56:02 1 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you.

17:56:07 2 MS. DONOVAN: Thank you.

17:56:07 3 MS. KOEHLE: All right.

17:56:08 4 Up next Sally Simpson, please.

17:56:11 5 **Commenter 26** MS. SIMPSON: Yes. I'm Sally Simpson.

17:56:12 6 I'm from Armstrong County, originally from Butler
17:56:17 7 County. And I'm interested in this. I've been coming
17:56:20 8 to the Crow meetings. And in Armstrong County, we are
17:56:26 9 currently working on trying to get regulation so that
17:56:28 10 there are no proposals in our county. I'm on the
17:56:32 11 Planning Commission in the Ford City Borough. And
17:56:36 12 we're really trying to push these regulations through.
17:56:39 13 Because once a proposal happens, it's kind of too late.

17:56:43 14 I grew up in rural Western Pennsylvania,
17:56:46 15 my whole life I grew up on a farm. And my grandpa died
17:56:50 16 from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma after spreading weedkiller
17:56:56 17 on his land for years and my other grandpa was a
17:57:00 18 coalminer, Black Lung.

17:57:01 19 So I guess my question is, when is it
17:57:02 20 going to stop? When are we going to use our - quit
17:57:05 21 using our poor rural communities just to suck out the
17:57:10 22 fossil fuels and destroy people's lives?

17:57:14 23 I mean, they come into our communities
17:57:17 24 just like with the AI data center, and they do this and
17:57:20 25 they just accept - expect us to accept it. And there

17:57:23 1 is no benefit whatsoever to the community itself.

17:57:29 2 In 2021, the House and the State passed
17:57:32 3 a bill that they're going to be sales tax except. So
17:57:37 4 Pennsylvania is a great place for these data centers to
17:57:40 5 come.

17:57:42 6 And so you guys, the DEP, this is our
17:57:44 7 last stop. Like, we - we need you to not let this
17:57:47 8 permit go through, because -. And I know it is for the
17:57:52 9 pipeline, but when I talk to Senator Pittman, because
17:57:55 10 I've negotiated with him, talked with him, he accepts
17:58:00 11 bribes from Knighthead Capital, he accepted a donation
17:58:03 12 of thousands of dollars, and this is his hometown and
17:58:05 13 he is willing to sell his own hometown out for this.

17:58:08 14 So what does that say when our
17:58:11 15 politicians are corrupt? And I'm hoping that - that
17:58:14 16 your wheels aren't greased. I'm hoping that you guys
17:58:18 17 can be the last stop to say that this is not going to
17:58:21 18 happen here. I mean, I care about these guys like I do
17:58:24 19 my own people, like they're my neighbors, too. And
17:58:28 20 it's important that we don't let this happen, because
17:58:32 21 it's the environment, it's our community and people die
17:58:37 22 from this.

17:58:38 23 And you don't - you don't realize it
17:58:39 24 until you look back years later and you say, wow, we
17:58:43 25 really should and have done that. We should have put

17:58:46 1 our foot down and not let that happen. So I guess
17:58:49 2 that's my question, when are we going to let - let -
17:58:51 3 you know, quit doing this to our rural communities?

17:58:56 4 Like just because we're working class
17:58:57 5 and we're poor, like, should we really accept this
17:59:01 6 laying down?

17:59:04 7 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. All right.

17:59:10 8 Can we have Sara King line up, Kat
17:59:12 9 Marquez, Kurt Limbach, Lynda Santos and Rebecca Myers,
17:59:17 10 please? If none of those people are present, then we
17:59:17 11 can go -

17:59:17 12 MR. MARQUEZ: Wait.

17:59:17 13 MS. SANTOS: We're here.

17:59:27 14 MS. KOEHLE: Oh, okay, go ahead.

17:59:27 15 MR. MARQUEZ: Which one do you want?

17:59:27 16 MS. KOEHLE: Sara is next, Sara King.

17:59:27 17 MS. KING: Yes.

17:59:27 18 MS. KOEHLE: Ready? Okay.

17:59:32 19 **Commenter 11** MS. KING: I'm Sara King. And thank you
17:59:35 20 for this hearing. I join Tammie and appreciating your
17:59:40 21 willingness to make this hearing possible.

17:59:44 22 The Pennsylvania Climate Change Act of
17:59:46 23 2008, that's Act 70, requires the Pennsylvania
17:59:49 24 Department of Environmental Protection to develop and
17:59:52 25 update a Climate Action Plan, that's C-A-P. So CAP,

17:59:56 1 here it comes, every three years. DEP also produces a
18:00:00 2 greenhouse gas inventory annually.

18:00:03 3 These documents make it absolutely clear
18:00:05 4 that burning fossil fuels is the primary cause of
18:00:08 5 climate change, that the impacts of climate change in
18:00:11 6 both people, and nature are already underway and that
18:00:13 7 the impacts will get far worse if we don't stop pouring
18:00:17 8 greenhouse gas into the atmosphere now.

18:00:19 9 According to the 20 - the 2024 CAP,
18:00:24 10 that's C-A-P, that Climate Action Plan, we need to both
18:00:26 11 adapt to what is already happening with regard to
18:00:29 12 climate change now and to act to reduce climate change
18:00:32 13 in the future.

18:00:33 14 So based on the specific list of
18:00:35 15 recommendations about how we must adapt to climate
18:00:38 16 change in Pennsylvania, that's found on page 186 of the
18:00:42 17 2024 DEP Climate Action Plan report, here are my
18:00:47 18 questions - my first questions. Number one, in
18:00:49 19 considering the permit for a 30-inch pipeline, has DEP
18:00:53 20 included climate projections into the pipeline
18:00:56 21 infrastructure and route design evaluation?

18:01:01 22 And put it another way, does DEP have
18:01:04 23 specific projection and modeling regarding the impact
18:01:06 24 of flooding and extreme temperature fluctuations in the
18:01:10 25 pipeline? And how do these projections affect the

18:01:13 1 pipeline evaluation - and the permit evaluation I
18:01:15 2 should say?

18:01:15 3 And number two, in assessing potential
18:01:18 4 risk to our clean water supply, has DEP conducted a
18:01:21 5 climate risk analysis to determine how rising
18:01:24 6 temperatures, increasing precipitation and increasing
18:01:27 7 frequency of extreme weather will affect our water
18:01:30 8 resources.

18:01:30 9 And number three, and again I'm working
18:01:33 10 from the list provided on page 182 and the Climate
18:01:38 11 Action Plan of 2024. Does this pipeline design
18:01:42 12 incorporate enhanced early warning systems in order to
18:01:45 13 mitigate potential damages and costs associated with
18:01:48 14 the extreme weather events?

18:01:51 15 In addition to these specific questions,
18:01:53 16 I wanted to make a comment about the overall approval
18:01:56 17 cross. And in doing so, I'd like to note that on page
18:02:00 18 48 of the 2024 Climate Action Plan, it states that to
18:02:04 19 even partially address the devastation that will result
18:02:07 20 from climate change in the next 20 to 75 years, we must
18:02:11 21 be aware that, and I am quoting from page 48,
18:02:14 22 strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from
18:02:17 23 electricity generation often a greatest potential for
18:02:21 24 decarbonization through 2050.

18:02:24 25 And again, from page 48, I'm quoting,

18:02:27 1 nuclear, solar, onshore wind and battery storage will
18:02:31 2 need to produce nearly all the electricity generated in
18:02:35 3 Pennsylvania by 2050. That's from the 2024 CAP.

18:02:41 4 So how is it possible in the context of
18:02:44 5 these fact-based conclusions that DO - DEP could even
18:02:47 6 entertain approval of the Homer City Redevelopment plan
18:02:52 7 that calls for massive increased use of fossil fuels to
18:02:55 8 generate electricity?

18:02:57 9 The answer to that question appears to
18:02:59 10 be piecemealing. There is no plan to approve the whole
18:03:02 11 plan, but with piecemealing little parts of the plan
18:03:06 12 are proved one at a time at the local level, and at the
18:03:09 13 state level and no one intends to the impact of the
18:03:12 14 whole, the effect of the whole. This is how
18:03:15 15 catastrophes happen.

18:03:20 16 Historian Raul Hilberg documented that
18:03:20 17 the fact that one of the greatest human catastrophies
18:03:23 18 of the 20th Century was made possible in part because
18:03:27 19 in nearly every European country one by one local
18:03:31 20 trained official and staff made sure to provide enough
18:03:33 21 training cars, enough staffing, local staffing, they
18:03:36 22 generally handled all of the logistics so that the
18:03:39 23 Nazis got the transportation they needed to deport
18:03:42 24 people from all across Europe to their deaths.

18:03:45 25 Bit by bit catastrophes happen. Bit by

18:03:49 1 bit we lost nearly every tree in Pennsylvania in the
18:03:53 2 19th and 20th century, we lost every passenger pigeon -
18:03:58 3 I'm sorry, every passenger pigeon. We lost almost
18:04:00 4 every bison and we're losing how many populations right
18:04:05 5 now and many other environmental concerns are happening
18:04:08 6 - or disasters are happening bit by bit.

18:04:13 7 PA DEP has document and guidelines, and
18:04:15 8 that would include the Climate Action Plan and the
18:04:18 9 greenhouse gas inventory, that both allow and promote
18:04:21 10 an evaluation of the impact of the entire Homer City
18:04:25 11 project. Both its immediate impact and the impact on
18:04:28 12 the future of the children in this room, and in the
18:04:31 13 State of Pennsylvania, as well as the country and the
18:04:33 14 world.

18:04:34 15 MS. KOEHLE: Ms. King, I apologize, but
18:04:35 16 your time is up.

18:04:37 17 MS. KING: One sentence.

18:04:37 18 MS. KOEHLE: One sentence, go really
18:04:39 19 quickly.

18:04:40 20 MS. KING: The impact of the entire
18:04:42 21 project is calculable, and must be part of this review
18:04:44 22 process and this way we must act.

18:04:46 23 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. All light.

18:04:52 24 We have Kat Marquez and then Kurt
18:04:52 25 Limbach.

18:04:55 1 **Commenter 6** MS. MARQUEZ: Cool, yeah. My name is
18:04:56 2 Kat Marquez. K-A-T M-A-R-Q-U-E-Z. Pacific Engagement
18:04:59 3 Mobilizer for PennFuture, a nonpartisan, nonprofit
18:05:02 4 organizations advocating for community and
18:05:04 5 environmental protection, especially that of clean air,
18:05:09 6 clean water and clean energy.

18:05:10 7 Today on behalf of PennFuture, I ask
18:05:12 8 that the DEP denies the development of the pipeline.
18:05:16 9 The people have a right to clean air, pure water and to
18:05:18 10 the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and
18:05:21 11 aesthetic values of the environment. The Commonwealth
18:05:23 12 shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all
18:05:26 13 the people.

18:05:27 14 Once again, as we've heard many times
18:05:29 15 before, the state constitution should be the framework
18:05:32 16 for what it means to protect the well-being of our
18:05:35 17 communities and the environment. And with that in
18:05:37 18 mind, we can see how the construction of the pipeline
18:05:39 19 fails to align with that, with what our government and
18:05:42 20 elected leaders should be doing for their constituents.

18:05:46 21 The DEP needs to recognize that this
18:05:48 22 pipeline is going to cross 21 streams and multiple
18:05:51 23 wetlands. This project alone is going to involve over
18:05:54 24 100 acres of earth disturbance, adding onto the already
18:05:57 25 impacted waters due to the previous negative impacts.

18:06:00 1 As is necessary, the DEP is obligated to
18:06:04 2 protect the cold-water fishery from negative impacts of
18:06:06 3 construction, including the prevention of
18:06:09 4 sedimentation, thermal and hydraulic impacts.

18:06:12 5 Lastly and most importantly, the
18:06:14 6 pipeline is at least partly in the Blacklick Watershed,
18:06:18 7 which is already negatively impacted by acid mine
18:06:20 8 drainage and agriculture. For reference, Blacklick
18:06:24 9 Creek is one of the largest tributaries to the
18:06:27 10 Conemaugh River, all - all formally flowing with bright
18:06:31 11 orange chemicals and void of aquatic life only 20 years
18:06:35 12 ago.

18:06:35 13 If it weren't for the communities and
18:06:37 14 the voluntary advocacy, they've done and continue to
18:06:40 15 do, which again I am in very awe of, it would not be
18:06:44 16 clear flowing as it is today. Pipeline construction
18:06:47 17 and trenching risks risk opening up new pathways for
18:06:50 18 acid mine drainage to find a way into other streams and
18:06:53 19 groundwater. We should all strive to add to the
18:06:56 20 positive impacts from our communities, not the negative
18:07:00 21 ones caused by industry.

18:07:01 22 To uphold our already established state
18:07:04 23 constitution, Department of Environmental Protection
18:07:08 24 needs to stand by the people of Homer City, and Indiana
18:07:10 25 County and the surrounding area who have lived here for

18:07:14 1 generation and deny the development of this pipeline
18:07:17 2 continuing.

18:07:17 3 This is one part of the larger picture,
18:07:20 4 which only becomes more important as we continue to
18:07:22 5 strive for a cleaner better world for all. Thank you.

18:07:26 6 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. Mr. Limbach.

18:07:29 7 **Commenter 27** MR. LIMBACH: Hello. My name is Kurt
18:07:31 8 Limbach. K-U-R-T L-I-M-B-A-C-H. I am a citizen of
18:07:36 9 Fairfield Township, Westmoreland County. My land goes
18:07:40 10 right down to the Conemaugh River. I have nine miles,
18:07:43 11 my farm is nine miles downwind from the proposed Homer
18:07:47 12 City abomination.

18:07:49 13 Now, I want to speak first about lack of
18:07:51 14 transparency about this whole thing. We have this
18:07:54 15 thing called Homer City Redevelopment Corporation, but
18:07:57 16 it's actually several billionaires out of Manhattan
18:08:00 17 named Knighthead Capital. That's who this is for.

18:08:02 18 I want to ask the DEP my first question.
18:08:04 19 Why do out-of-state billionaires get concierge service
18:08:08 20 to push their permits through quickly?

18:08:11 21 Now, we had - this is the - would be the
18:08:13 22 most massive air pollution source in all of Western
18:08:18 23 Pennsylvania ever created. The DEP only allowed one
18:08:20 24 air permit hearing for the public. That's hardly
18:08:23 25 transparency. And in that air permit hearing, I asked

18:08:27 1 the DEP's Health Officer what would be the health
18:08:30 2 impacts? Because every fossil fuel plant of any type
18:08:33 3 has so many deaths a year caused by premature deaths,
18:08:37 4 so many cancers, cases of asthma, emphysema, et cetera.

18:08:42 5 The DEP - the Health Officer testified
18:08:44 6 there would be zero health impacts from a four and a
18:08:48 7 half gigawatt power plant burning fossil fuel. She
18:08:51 8 failed to mention to the public that it was based on
18:08:53 9 the high levels of pollution as CO ground level for the
18:08:58 10 old Homer City plant.

18:09:00 11 So basically, she was just saying, you
18:09:02 12 know, have the same amount of deaths, and sickness and
18:09:04 13 asthma from one of the most polluting coal power plants
18:09:10 14 in the world. Some I want someone at DEP to quantify
18:09:12 15 that for me, and how many extra deaths a year in the
18:09:14 16 region we expect, how much extra cancer, how much extra
18:09:18 17 emphysema and how much -? Because this is going to
18:09:20 18 provide currently 50 jobs at a data center, which is
18:09:23 19 lot data center. Typically, they're 10, 15 or 20
18:09:26 20 people. This is also going to drive our energy prices
18:09:29 21 through the roof.

18:09:30 22 So I was also told by the DEP not to
18:09:34 23 communicate with the Health Officer anymore. And they
18:09:35 24 accused me of being a member of the Fourth Estate. I
18:09:39 25 have never ever or been now or in the future been

18:09:42 1 member of the Fourth Estate. I'm not a reporter for
18:09:45 2 any news organizations. And their failure to
18:09:48 3 communicate with me shows lack of transparency to
18:09:50 4 answer my questions.

18:09:51 5 Because we're going to have massive air
18:09:53 6 pollution. Even the developer says it's only 70
18:09:56 7 percent as bad as per gigawatt as the Homer City plant.
18:10:00 8 But it's like two and a half times the size. So it's
18:10:03 9 50 percent more air pollution than the old Homer City
18:10:06 10 plant, which was a killer for the region.

18:10:09 11 And throughout the documents, the DEP
18:10:13 12 keeps referring to this as a modification of an
18:10:15 13 existing facility. The old facility was torn down, it
18:10:19 14 burned coal. The new facility is not built. It burns
18:10:23 15 frack natural gas. That is hardly a modification of
18:10:26 16 the existing facility.

18:10:27 17 And then how does the old Homer City
18:10:29 18 polluter that hurt our community for years get to sell
18:10:34 19 pollution credits like it's somehow good stuff to the
18:10:37 20 new polluter who is going to harm our community and
18:10:40 21 give them a pass nitrous oxide to the VOCs? This is
18:10:44 22 absurd.

18:10:46 23 And again, I've watched these pipelines
18:10:48 24 being built. I have saw it in my communities when they
18:10:52 25 did frack and I saw plenty of inadvertent returns at

18:10:55 1 every stream crossing, lack of monitoring by the DEP,
18:11:00 2 lack of sedimentation and erosion controls.

18:11:03 3 DEP enforces fracking and pipeline so
18:11:06 4 poorly. In my community, they put a - a frack well
18:11:08 5 within 50 feet of a blue line stream, it's supposed to
18:11:12 6 be 100 feet. They had no way of - to do so. I called
18:11:15 7 the DEP up. And they said, Kurt, we'll just give them
18:11:18 8 a waiver, it's a piece of paper called a waiver. I
18:11:20 9 went to these other ones, and looked at the waivers;
18:11:23 10 there was no E&S controls. It was just a waiver for
18:11:25 11 them.

18:11:26 12 This is how it's done in Pennsylvania.
18:11:27 13 I watch Exxon, XTO, turn a beautiful trout stream that
18:11:32 14 goes from my property red, gray, yellow and brown. So
18:11:35 15 I want those questions answered. Looking at pipeline
18:11:40 16 leaks can be horrible. And I want to see these health
18:11:43 17 impacts actually quantified. If you want base them on
18:11:46 18 the old plant, do so. But tell me how many people that
18:11:49 19 it killed and if that's what's we're going to expect
18:11:51 20 again from this plant. How many cancers? How much
18:11:55 21 emphysema for our 50 job and our energy prices going
18:11:58 22 through the roof as they drive the man crazy for
18:12:00 23 natural gas?

18:12:01 24 And fracking I saw it in my community, I
18:12:04 25 watch a big - every - people sick and lose their water.

18:12:07 1 Thank you.

18:12:09 2 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you, Mr. Limbach.

18:12:09 3 All right.

18:12:15 4 Up next we have Lynda Santos, Rebecca
18:12:19 5 Myers, Colleen O'Neil and Damian Kordell.

18:12:22 6 **Commenter 28** MS. SANTOS: Hi. My name is Lynda
18:12:25 7 Santos. And I'm a resident of Indiana County. There
18:12:28 8 are those like Knighthood equity firm based out of Wall
18:12:35 9 Street, multibillionaire company that will destroy the
18:12:38 10 earth at any cost and call it progress. Pipelines
18:12:43 11 contribute to global warming and physical disruptions
18:12:46 12 to the environment.

18:12:46 13 Beyond the leaks from construction and
18:12:49 14 production alone emits millions of metric tons of CO2.
18:12:56 15 Habitat destruction, deforestation, soil erosion and
18:13:00 16 sediment smoother aquatic life. What you call natural
18:13:05 17 gas, and there's nothing natural really about it how it
18:13:09 18 is sourced. Leaks occur at all stages from valves, and
18:13:16 19 compressor stations, to catastrophic failures like the
18:13:21 20 Nord Stream Explosion, which released 500 tons of
18:13:24 21 methane.

18:13:25 22 Are we prepared for anything like that?
18:13:29 23 Smog and fine particles leaking methane reacts with
18:13:33 24 other chemicals and sunlight to form ground level ozone
18:13:37 25 layers that travels deep into our lungs, creating

18:13:41 1 respiratory diseases.

18:13:44 2 And there are those like us who live
18:13:47 3 here and enjoy our woods, lakes and streams. We are
18:13:52 4 nature. And nature is more important than this
18:13:56 5 pipeline. It takes 100 years for trees to mature. If
18:14:02 6 you destroy this, we will never see trees again in our
18:14:05 7 lifetime, and maybe or even your children's.

18:14:08 8 Tourism in PA is a billion dollar
18:14:11 9 business. Again, woods, lakes, streams, hunting,
18:14:17 10 fishing, clean air and water. Why would you want to
18:14:21 11 destroy that? Why would any tourist, student or new
18:14:26 12 resident even want to come here and live next to a
18:14:29 13 toxic pipeline, power plant or AI data centers, for
18:14:33 14 these our temporary? As soon as they, meaning
18:14:37 15 Knighthead equity firm, finishes sucking up all our
18:14:42 16 natural resources they will leave us with a wasteland.
18:14:46 17 It is time to turn the corner and stop polluting that
18:14:50 18 is killing us with forever chemicals.

18:14:53 19 I propose that you banish this permit
18:14:57 20 and we create a moratorium to halt the harm and that we
18:15:01 21 create an ordinance to protect our beautiful land in
18:15:05 22 PA. Thank you.

18:15:07 23 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. Rebecca Myers,
18:15:12 24 please.

18:15:12 25 [Commenter 29](#) MS. MYERS: Hi. My name is Rebecca

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1 Myers. I'm a resident in Indiana County and have lived
2 here my entire life. I am here to request that the DEP
3 deny this proposal and show my opposition to the
4 project as a whole. I greatly appreciate the DEP - DEP
5 giving us time for comments. Thank you for allowing us
6 to be here.

7 The fast-tracking of the Homer City
8 Redevelopment Group's project has felt like a guerilla
9 warfare against my community. It has only been a
10 little over one year since HCR announced that they
11 would be building an energy campus for the purpose of
12 powering data centers with practically no time in
13 between the announcement and construction for people to
14 ask questions, show our approval, and disapproval, or
15 even get a shred of understanding of the massive scale
16 of the project or what it imposes.

17 To me, this feels like town is being
18 pillaged. When an opposing force invades us, and
19 violently takes our land, our resources and harms our
20 health for their personal gain, and does so in a manner
21 that is so swift, and quick and lacking transparency,
22 that it shocks citizens into submission before they can
23 get their bearings and fight back.

24 My community is still confused about the
25 project and its purpose to host data centers. Many

18:16:16 1 believe that the project is only a power plant and it
18:16:20 2 is meant to provide local electricity to power our
18:16:23 3 homes. Many people unaware of the size of the project
18:16:26 4 and that other data centers which are being opposed in
18:16:29 5 other communities actually pale in comparison to three
18:16:34 6 3,200 acre project that is HCR.

18:16:36 7 Many people are unaware that the owners
18:16:37 8 of Homer City Redevelopment group are not Indiana
18:16:40 9 County residents and that the project is actually owned
18:16:43 10 by a New York hedge fund.

18:16:44 11 Furthermore, I was told by someone who
18:16:46 12 lives within the area of the proposed pipeline that
18:16:48 13 they were never notified by Homer City Redevelopment or
18:16:51 14 the DEP that a proposed pipeline would be going
18:16:53 15 directly through their backyard. Is that statement
18:16:55 16 true? Has the HCR or DEP sent individual notices to
18:17:00 17 the residents that would be most affected by the
18:17:02 18 pipeline, and stormwater drainage and sediment?

18:17:05 19 If not, I humbly request that another
18:17:08 20 hearing be issued, because adequate notice has not been
18:17:10 21 given to those who are most affected to prepare
18:17:13 22 comments.

18:17:14 23 I am also here as a patron of the Ghost
18:17:17 24 Town Trail and would like to talk about how degrading
18:17:19 25 the Blacklick Watershed will affect patrons like me in

18:17:21 1 the area of Indiana County as a whole. This region has
18:17:25 2 been plagued by pollution my entire life.

18:17:27 3 Growing up, I was taught not to swim in
18:17:29 4 the bright orange streams that were polluted with acid
18:17:32 5 mine drainage or even to walk through them, which
18:17:34 6 discouraged me and many other from going outside,
18:17:37 7 recreating and exercising.

18:17:39 8 Luckily, Indiana County has seen
18:17:41 9 significant gains in reversing this pollution and
18:17:43 10 turning the abandon infrastructure of the coal industry
18:17:45 11 into a treasure of natural - of nature-based recreation
18:17:48 12 like the Ghost Town Trail. An eerie parallel exists
18:17:53 13 between the towns around Blacklick Watershed that
18:17:55 14 border the Ghost Town Trail, and the proposed pipeline
18:17:57 15 and power plant project that is happening today in
18:17:57 16 Homer City.

18:18:00 17 The name Ghost Town Trail should be
18:18:01 18 evidence enough that this community has not only been
18:18:03 19 plagued by the pollution of the previous coal mines,
18:18:06 20 but it has also been plagued by get-rich-quick schemes
18:18:09 21 that ended in the abandonment of entire towns.

18:18:12 22 In 1901, \$1 million was invested in
18:18:14 23 Wehrum, a town in the Blacklick Watershed to build a
18:18:18 24 school, hospital, police station, jail and 250 houses
18:18:19 25 to sustain the coal rush.

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However, in less than 30 years the mines were close and the town was abandoned. Now, 100 years later we are still dealing with the consequences of that coal rush today, and a new false investment opportunity that could devastate us and leave abandoned infrastructure with no repayment to the citizens who sacrifice their land and resources for another 100 years.

The Ghost Town Trail is peppered with educational sign and posters about the history of the trail and the pollution that has occurred in the Blacklick Watershed. A survey was conducted about the amount of use of the Ghost Town Trail gets and estimated that were - were over 77,000 visits in one year. That is 77,000 events of witnesses to the trail, and its history of pollution and revitalization.

Along the trail patrons can also see the massive Blacklick Creek treatment plant, and be inspired and forewarned about the devastation that unhinged business practices leave behind. Blacklick Creek has been on the DEP's impaired water since its inception in 2006, as mine drainage caused unbalanced pH, and high levels of iron, aluminum and manganese.

How will additional sediment not make an already degraded watershed worse? The Blacklick's

18:19:29 1 Watershed is an area of tourism and members of my
18:19:31 2 county both enjoy the Ghost Town Trail and Blacklick
18:19:35 3 Valley natural area. This needs to be taken into
18:19:36 4 account and include in the application.

18:19:38 5 MS. KOEHLE: Rebecca, I'm sorry.

18:19:40 6 MS. MYERS: That's okay. Thank you.

18:19:41 7 MS. KOEHLE: I can accept your written
18:19:43 8 testimony.

18:19:44 9 Okay?

18:19:44 10 MS. MYERS: Thank you.

18:19:45 11 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. All right.

18:19:52 12 Colleen O'Neil, Damian Kordell, Bailey
18:19:55 13 Nace and then Darcy Trunzo, please.

18:19:58 14 **Commenter 30** MS. O'NEIL: My name is Colleen O'Neil.
18:19:59 15 And I am providing this comment on behalf of the
18:20:02 16 Mountain Watershed Association.

18:20:04 17 First, I will state that our
18:20:05 18 organization believes it is irresponsible to invest
18:20:08 19 taxpayer dollars into infrastructure and permitting for
18:20:12 20 data center development, for artificial intelligence,
18:20:13 21 especially when residents are experiencing an
18:20:16 22 unprecedented affordability crisis.

18:20:18 23 This pipeline project alone has received
18:20:20 24 \$5 million in taxpayer money. That said, I will focus
18:20:23 25 my comment on tangible actions that I believe the DEP

18:20:28 1 must make - must take to protect local communities and
18:20:30 2 watersheds from Homer City Redevelopment's proposed
18:20:34 3 pipeline project.

18:20:35 4 To construct this pipeline, the
18:20:36 5 Applicant proposed horizontal directional drilling or
18:20:40 6 HDD, which a trenchless pipeline installation method,
18:20:42 7 often required when a pipeline passes through sensitive
18:20:44 8 areas such as streams like Blacklick Creek.

18:20:47 9 In our, HDD for pipeline construction
18:20:47 10 for pipeline construction has historically resulted in
18:20:52 11 inadvertent returns, where drilling fluid escapes from
18:20:54 12 the borehole into the surrounding environment, which
18:20:57 13 can pollute nearby streams and drinking water wells.

18:20:59 14 When drilling fluid enters nearby
18:21:01 15 waterways, it can significant macroinvertebrate
18:21:04 16 populations by increasing sedimentation which in term
18:21:08 17 impacts fish populations.

18:21:10 18 When drilling fluids enters nearby
18:21:12 19 drinking water well, it can cause cloudy undrinkable
18:21:15 20 water that often requires costly treatment.

18:21:17 21 For instance, the construction of the
18:21:18 22 Mariner East pipeline in Northern Westmoreland County
18:21:22 23 in 2017 resulted in 17 spills of an estimated 200,002
18:21:27 24 gallons of drinking - of drilling fluid into various
18:21:30 25 streams.

1 Local private water supplies were also
2 impacted. As a result of advocacy efforts by
3 organizations such as Mountain Watershed Association,
4 DEP has established extensive technical guidance for
5 HDD used for pipeline development in the Commonwealth.

6 First, DEP should require that Homer
7 City Redevelopment strictly adhere to this technical
8 guidance if the Homer City is permitted.

9 Second, DEP require the Applicant to
10 conduct baseline water testing for all private drinking
11 water supplies located within 2,000 feet of proposed
12 HDD locations for pipeline construction.

13 In addition, DEP should require that the
14 Applicant notify all residents within 2,000 feet when
15 HDD is anticipated and provide all residents with
16 temporary water sources on the days when HDD will
17 occur.

18 This is because one of the best ways to
19 prevent impacts to private water supplies is by not
20 using them when HDD is occurring, since well pumps can
21 pull and misdirect drilling fluid into nearby wells.
22 These measurements are paramount for protecting nearby
23 residents and watersheds. Thank you for the
24 opportunity to comment.

25 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. Damian Kordell,

18:22:43 1 please.

18:22:43 2 **Commenter 31** MR. KORDELL: Hi, my name is Damian
18:22:46 3 Kordell. And I am on the Board of Directors of Kensing
18:22:53 4 Trilo Limited. The Kensing Trilo Limited mission is to
18:22:53 5 conserve, protect and protect the cold-water fisheries
18:22:58 6 in and Indiana County.

18:22:59 7 With that mission statement in mind,
18:23:02 8 there was a concern that the disturbance of the 101.8
18:23:06 9 acres of earth within the watershed designated
18:23:09 10 cold-water fisheries, with that - with having at least
18:23:15 11 that many crossing has a good possibility that these
18:23:19 12 cold-water fisheries will be adversely affected if not
18:23:24 13 properly - if - if the proper environment protective
18:23:25 14 measures are noted followed and are not enforced.

18:23:30 15 DEP must require enhanced protective
18:23:33 16 environmental measures beyond the minimum technology
18:23:36 17 standards, as well as overseeing and enforcing all
18:23:41 18 environmental requirements of this construction project
18:23:44 19 in order to ensure that the quality of the impacted
18:23:48 20 stream - streams remains intact.

18:23:51 21 In short, I'm just asking DEP to do due
18:23:54 22 diligent, do their job and please oversee this projects
18:23:57 23 so that the contractors are not doing what - what they
18:24:02 24 want to do, what we really want to see done.

18:24:05 25 Kensing Trilo Limited has been a part of

18:24:08 1 many CWF stream improvement and maintenance projects in
18:24:11 2 this area. We are very vested in the results of this
18:24:14 3 pipeline project so that sufficient water quality is
18:24:18 4 maintained in the area of the pipeline and in the
18:24:21 5 surrounding community. Thank you.

18:24:22 6 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. All right.

18:24:28 7 Is Bailey Nace or Darcy Trunzo here?

18:24:32 8 MS. TRUNZO: Yeah.

18:24:33 9 MS. KOEHLE: Okay. Go ahead.

18:24:35 10 **Commenter 33** MS. TRUNZO: Hi. My name is Darcy
18:24:38 11 Trunzo. I was born and raised - I was born in
18:24:41 12 Johnstown; raised in Homer City, in a three-room house
18:24:45 13 about a quarter mile from the power plant, close enough
18:24:48 14 to Neal Road that I could smell the farm.

18:24:51 15 Last year in March, I was probably one
18:24:53 16 of the first people to hitch the ride on this data
18:24:58 17 center issue. I have worked in media back and forth
18:25:02 18 for many years, and I came - I come home like many
18:25:05 19 GenXers to check in on my family who still lives here.

18:25:09 20 My dad was a coal miner, a longwall
18:25:12 21 operator and he managed actually not to have Black Lung
18:25:15 22 like my grand /R-PB parents because he ended up with
18:25:19 23 union protections, that protection that protected his
18:25:20 24 lungs and he was able to take care of himself until the
18:25:24 25 mines closed.

18:25:24 1 My father himself raced bicycles for
18:25:28 2 many years and he had noted that the environment over
18:25:31 3 the years after his mine closed had improved. He could
18:25:34 4 fish, he could do all sorts of things. When I was a
18:25:37 5 kid, I was a wheezer, I was an asthmatic. We grew up
18:25:41 6 close enough to the power plant that my mother used to
18:25:43 7 complain that if she didn't take her sheets in off the
18:25:46 8 line, by morning they would be black. This is a story
18:25:49 9 we all know. Same with being orange up to your knees
18:25:53 10 if you made it in the creak and tried to lie to your
18:25:55 11 mother about it. We all know.

18:25:57 12 But last year I - someone reached out to
18:26:00 13 me who was a farm stakeholder and said does anyone know
18:26:04 14 of an environmental attorney who can help file an
18:26:07 15 injunction, and I was like what is this about? They
18:26:10 16 want to blast the power plant, they want to level it,
18:26:13 17 apparently, they want to bring in a data center.

18:26:16 18 Now, I'm standing here and looking at
18:26:17 19 you. The DEP is no stranger to Indiana County.
18:26:21 20 They've been in a longstanding fight with Grant
18:26:25 21 Township. They've dealt with issues in the region
18:26:27 22 because of frack brine, you know, after - after
18:26:32 23 Haliburton left, they tried to come back and reinvest
18:26:36 24 themselves in the well pads and dump what they were
18:26:39 25 fracking in other places.

18:26:41 1 The reason I'm asking for this whole
18:26:44 2 business to stop is because none of these permits were
18:26:47 3 done in good faith. We had very little time to
18:26:53 4 respond, days actually. I was actually out of the -
18:26:55 5 out of town, I was in New York City when I got the
18:26:58 6 information and I got on the phone. I got on the phone
18:27:01 7 with the watershed organizations, every single one of
18:27:04 8 them. I got in - on the phone with Three Rivers
18:27:09 9 Waterkeeper's. I got on the phone with the people who
18:27:12 10 sued the pants off the power plant in 2 - in the early
18:27:15 11 2000s.

18:27:16 12 This is not a new game for Homer City.
18:27:19 13 And when we called and tried to get FOIAs from the DEP
18:27:23 14 about whether or not there was asbestos in the
18:27:26 15 atmosphere, the claims were that there was no asbestos
18:27:30 16 from those stacks.

18:27:31 17 I don't think any of this process was in
18:27:35 18 good faith. One of the key stakeholders in Homer City
18:27:40 19 Redevelopment is Robin Gorman. One of the things that
18:27:43 20 I know for a fact about Robin Gorman is that she is
18:27:48 21 notorious for defying rules when it comes to the
18:27:50 22 Sunshine Act.

18:27:52 23 I know this because I was involved in a
18:27:55 24 public process where she cut off my mic, and then she
18:27:59 25 had - she got reported for it and she had to be

18:28:02 1 retrained in the process of dealing with the Sunshine
18:28:07 2 Act. This was during COVID.

18:28:09 3 So what I'm saying is, we have a
18:28:12 4 longstanding legacy of environmental problems in this
18:28:14 5 community where people in poverty all left without key
18:28:18 6 information that they need to make decisions. The
18:28:22 7 fast-tracking of this permit was done purely because
18:28:27 8 people have power, power and money. There's also a
18:28:30 9 tourniquet on the media in this community.

18:28:33 10 At the time, the Pittsburgh Post Gazette
18:28:35 11 wasn't coming here to report on this stuff because they
18:28:38 12 were in one of the longest standing labor disputes in
18:28:41 13 the country. I don't think any of this is a - is an
18:28:48 14 accident. I think all of this was set up to prevent
18:28:52 15 the local people from being able to have the time to be
18:28:56 16 able to investigate what was happening in their
18:28:59 17 community.

18:29:00 18 The \$5 million that are going into this
18:29:02 19 pipeline, the local community wasn't able to - to
18:29:08 20 access the process because the meetings that were being
18:29:09 21 had within the county I know are very difficult to
18:29:13 22 access. Also, the meetings that were had last year
18:29:16 23 that dealt with the DEP, and dealt with Kiewit and
18:29:20 24 dealt with Homer City Redevelopment were done in a way
18:29:24 25 that was not in good faith with the community. They

18:29:28 1 were - we're not given adequate time to report.

18:29:30 2 And even when people were filing Freedom
18:29:33 3 of Information Act requests, they aren't getting
18:29:36 4 information that's - that's accurate. A lot of it is
18:29:38 5 redacted whether it comes from the county or whether it
18:29:40 6 comes from you folks.

18:29:41 7 And once again, the fights that are
18:29:42 8 being had with the DEP are longstanding. I don't
18:29:48 9 sincerely believe that any of this process has been in
18:29:51 10 good faith. There are a ton of people here that can
18:29:53 11 talk about the science of this region and they've done
18:29:55 12 an excellent job. And I know many of the people in
18:29:59 13 this room.

18:29:59 14 MS. KOEHLE: Ms. Trunzo, -

18:29:59 15 MS. TRUNZO: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

18:29:59 16 MS. KOEHLE: - I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

18:29:59 17 MS. TRUNZO: Sure.

18:29:59 18 MS. KOEHLE: But you can give me your
18:29:59 19 testimony -

18:30:03 20 MS. TRUNZO: Sure.

18:30:04 21 MS. KOEHLE: - at the end and -

18:30:04 22 MS. TRUNZO: And I sure will.

18:30:05 23 MS. KOEHLE: - it will be carrying just
18:30:06 24 as much weight.

18:30:07 25 MS. TRUNZO: But I will tell you right

18:30:08 1 now, I do recommend that this permit be stopped because
18:30:11 2 I don't believe that it deserves to be fast-tracked
18:30:13 3 because I don't believe any of it in good faith.

18:30:20 4 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. All right.

18:30:21 5 Last call for Bailey Nace. Bailey Nace?

18:30:38 6 Bailey Nace? No Bailey Nace? Okay. Then we have

18:30:38 7 Larry Braddock (sic), I think it says, Braddick (sic).

18:30:39 8 And then we have Red Ludwig. Thank you. Go ahead.

18:30:44 9 **Commenter 38** MR. BLALOCK: Hi. Yeah, I'm Larry

18:30:47 10 Blalock (corrects pronunciation) from your neighboring

18:30:50 11 town of Johnstown. And have been involved in

18:30:55 12 environmental struggles for half a century. And so

18:31:01 13 have a sense of - of how these things go and how

18:31:07 14 corporate investors - corporate investors will say

18:31:12 15 whatever it is they have to say and make all the

18:31:15 16 promises they need to promise to get what they want,

18:31:20 17 and then ignore it, walk away from it.

18:31:26 18 A good example is whoever invested in

18:31:31 19 the coal mines along the Ghost Town Trail, which I love

18:31:34 20 to ride on. I spent a lot of time on the Ghost Town

18:31:38 21 Trail, and - and in the businesses, and restaurants and

18:31:40 22 things that are along the trail. And they spend -

18:32:01 23 let's see where I was at with that - yeah, the past

18:32:02 24 energy investments have - have like left the community,

18:32:09 25 leaving communities and taxpayers still to pay back a

18:32:15 1 lifetime of harm that past investors have ignored.

18:32:20 2 When the coal mine companies came in,
18:32:23 3 they made their money and they walked away, as others
18:32:27 4 mentioned, leaving communities harmed. Since then, it
18:32:34 5 has been up to the taxpayers, they call that just, you
18:32:49 6 know - and the investors walk away from the costly
18:32:56 7 things that are going to b need to be done to protect
18:33:00 8 the environment in a project. And then in the end, the
18:33:04 9 taxpayers are left to foot the bill.

18:33:07 10 I have some photos that I took within
18:33:10 11 the last two weeks on the Ghost Town Trail, and one of
18:33:14 12 them is of a - a three-foot wide, very slimy looking
18:33:19 13 orange 100-foot long stream, a part of a stream that
18:33:27 14 comes out of the mountain and ends up in the - the
18:33:29 15 Blacklick Creek. I have others, one of Armagh Run
18:33:37 16 that's orange coming off the hill into the river.
18:33:44 17 There is another stream, that I can't remember the name
18:33:46 18 of, that also runs in orange, and rust and into the
18:33:50 19 river.

18:33:50 20 And I just - you know, I know from
18:33:55 21 looking at that, that somebody along the line walked
18:33:59 22 away from their responsibility. We just - the
18:34:03 23 taxpayers just spent a half mile downstream from
18:34:07 24 Vintondale, spent \$27 million - not \$2.7 million, \$27
18:34:14 25 million putting an acid mine drainage treatment plant

18:34:18 1 in that was- became operable last year. The \$27
18:34:25 2 million plant is called - that's paid for by the
18:34:28 3 taxpayers, that's Pennsylvania and federal taxpayers
18:34:30 4 footing the bill for that.

18:34:32 5 The plant itself cost \$600,000 a year to
18:34:40 6 maintain. And that again is paid in by taxpayers. So
18:34:47 7 I really think, just - and it has been said time and
18:34:53 8 again, we need to have - I real a think it is important
18:34:55 9 that when a project this big and - and extensive is
18:35:00 10 proposed, that money be set aside to hire professional
18:35:10 11 - environmental professionals with a background in
18:35:13 12 projects similar to this, and that they go to bat in
18:35:18 13 the community, and the community can trust them and
18:35:20 14 understand them. I wouldn't understand the politicians
18:35:22 15 in Harrisburg or in the agency - in the Department of
18:35:25 16 Environmental Protection based on previous experiences
18:35:29 17 I had.

18:35:29 18 MS. KOEHLE: Well, thank you. And if
18:35:31 19 you would like to give me your testimony before the end
18:35:34 20 of the evening, I'll make sure you get my email
18:35:36 21 address.

18:35:37 22 Okay?

18:35:38 23 MR. BLALOCK: Good, okay.

18:35:39 24 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you.

18:35:40 25 MR. BLALOCK: If anybody wants to see

18:35:41 1 the photos of the gunk on that -.

18:35:46 2 MS. KOEHLE: If you email me also, I can
18:35:47 3 share them with over, yes, thank you. All right. Mr.
18:35:56 4 Reed Ludwig. I hope I didn't butcher that too bad.

18:35:58 5 **Commenter 39** MR. LUDWIG: No, that's all right. Good
18:35:58 6 evening.

18:35:59 7 What is there to say that has not been
18:36:01 8 said? My name is Reed Ludwig. There you go. And
18:36:04 9 although I am not a resident currently living in
18:36:07 10 Westmont, I am a concerned community member. I grew up
18:36:10 11 in Seward and New Florence creating friendships here.
18:36:13 12 Much of my family live here. I attended IUP. I hunt,
18:36:16 13 and fish here and consume what I harvest.

18:36:19 14 My father worked the entirety of his
18:36:21 15 adult life at the Homer City Generating Station. I'm
18:36:24 16 here tonight because I believe our community deserves
18:36:27 17 transparency, accountability and protection before
18:36:30 18 projects of this scale move forward.

18:36:32 19 This hearing is not just about a permit
18:36:35 20 number, it is about the future of our water, our air,
18:36:39 21 our land and the people who call this region home.
18:36:42 22 We're being asked to accept a 5.8 mile gas pipeline
18:36:46 23 tied to a massive gas-fired power plant intended to
18:36:50 24 support AI data centers and potentially other large
18:36:53 25 industrial operations, yet many residents still feel

18:36:56 1 like we are being kept in the dark about the full
18:37:00 2 long-term impacts of this project could have on an
18:37:03 3 Indiana County and surrounding communities.

18:37:05 4 Projects like this do not exist in
18:37:07 5 isolations. They affect streams, wetlands, stormwater
18:37:11 6 systems, air quality, traffic, noise, infrastructure,
18:37:15 7 energy demand and the cost of living for working
18:37:18 8 families. Once damage is done to waterways like Muddy
18:37:22 9 Run and Blacklick Creek, it cannot simply be undone
18:37:26 10 with a press release or a corporate promise. And that
18:37:28 11 is exactly why transparency matters.

18:37:31 12 People should not have to dig through
18:37:33 13 technical filings or hear rumors to understand what is
18:37:35 14 happening in their own backyard. The public deserves
18:37:39 15 clear answers. What are the long-term environmental
18:37:42 16 risks? What protections are truly in place? Who
18:37:46 17 benefits financially? Who carries the burden if
18:37:50 18 something goes wrong? And why does it feel like
18:37:53 19 communities are always the last to fully know?

18:37:56 20 We are constantly being - constantly
18:37:58 21 told these projects are progress. But progress for
18:38:02 22 who? If a local - if local families face higher
18:38:05 23 utility costs, increased environmental risks, strain on
18:38:08 24 infrastructure or declining quality of life while large
18:38:12 25 corporation and data centers profit, then that is not

18:38:14 1 shared prosperity, that is extraction.

18:38:18 2 Our communities are not sacrifice zones
18:38:21 3 for unchecked industrial expansion. I grew up in
18:38:24 4 Western Pennsylvania, I know what happens when
18:38:27 5 industries come in promising jobs and prosperity while
18:38:31 6 communities are left care carrying the long-term
18:38:34 7 consequences decades later. We have seen polluted
18:38:37 8 waterways. We have seen abandoned infrastructure. We
18:38:40 9 have seen promises disappear once profits are secured.
18:38:43 10 That history should make all of us more conscious not
18:38:47 11 less.

18:38:47 12 I am asking the Department and every
18:38:49 13 official involved to slow this process down, and ensure
18:38:52 14 the public gets full transparency and rigorous
18:38:54 15 environmental review before permits move forward,
18:38:57 16 because clean water is not negotiable. Public trust is
18:39:01 17 not negotiable. And the health of future generations
18:39:05 18 is not negotiable. People here tonight are not
18:39:08 19 extremists, they are parents, workers, taxpayers,
18:39:12 20 neighbors and citizens demanding accountability before
18:39:15 21 irreversible decisions are made. This community
18:39:18 22 deserves to be heard before corporate interests are
18:39:22 23 prioritized over public well-being. Thank you.

18:39:29 24 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you, Mr. Ludwig. All
18:39:30 25 right. Up next we have Chloe Drew and Anna Goldman,

18:39:35 1 please.

18:39:47 2 MS. DREW: Good evening. I didn't
18:39:50 3 prepare anything. But I would like to say -.

18:39:53 4 MS. KOEHLE: Chloe Drew.

18:39:54 5 Right?

18:39:54 6 **Commenter 40** MS. DREW: Yes, that's my name. Yeah.

18:39:55 7 I'm assuming most of you from the Department of
18:40:00 8 Environmental Protection probably got into that role
18:40:03 9 because you love the environment. And so maybe you
18:40:06 10 have a fond memory of putting your hands in the stream,
18:40:09 11 and catching a frog or watching a fish swim by through
18:40:12 12 your, like, legs when you're wadding in streams when
18:40:16 13 you were a child.

18:40:17 14 I work with children. That is - that is
18:40:19 15 my role in life is to share the - my love of the
18:40:23 16 natural world with the next generation. And that's
18:40:27 17 what I do. And I go out every single day with children
18:40:30 18 into the streams here in Indiana County. I work with
18:40:33 19 students at Homer City Elementary School, and I share
18:40:36 20 with them my love of nature and I get the joy of
18:40:39 21 witnessing their love of nature.

18:40:42 22 And so if you could for a moment think
18:40:45 23 about why you got into this role, as a child, you love
18:40:50 24 nature perhaps, maybe you can think about the children
18:40:52 25 in your life, maybe you can think about the

1 grandchildren in your life. What is the purpose, what
2 is the cost of this pipeline that will be powering this
3 power plant that will be powering AI?

4 As a child you're not going to pick up a
5 smartphone and look at a salamander and fall in love
6 with that creek in your backyard. So I really just am
7 imploring you to please speak up, use your voice, think
8 about the mortality of the situation, there are
9 children relying on the freshwater, and the streams in
10 our region and they're relying on you to have their
11 back. Thank you.

12 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. Anna Goldman.

13 **Commenter 41** MS. GOLDMAN: Hi. Anna Goldman. I grew
14 up in dirty Pittsburgh, moved out here years ago for a
15 job, and now I'm retired as you can see.

16 Everyone has testified to the well-known
17 effects of fracking, of breathing in the polluted air
18 caused gasoline - gas plants. Pennsylvania shares
19 electricity across a grid. We don't - every place in
20 the - in Pennsylvania shares electricity. And now that
21 the Homer City power plant is gone, there is no place
22 in the state that has suffering because Homer City no
23 longer makes electricity. We have sufficient
24 electricity in the state.

25 There is another polluting thing that

18:42:11 1 needs to be known, Facebook, which I'm sorry I follow,
18:42:15 2 knows I am interested in - in this thing. And I see
18:42:19 3 posts from folks across the United States that live
18:42:25 4 near these plants, these data plants which internet has
18:42:28 5 not needed for decades. Okay. So they - they live
18:42:31 6 near these things. And another thing that they suffer
18:42:33 7 from is noise.

18:42:36 8 Humans hear a short range of noise,
18:42:39 9 animals hear, and birds, and fishes and everything else
18:42:44 10 hear on a much longer range. They say their birds,
18:42:47 11 their pets, their farm animals are being annoyed,
18:42:52 12 destroyed by this. It affects everything. They get
18:42:56 13 headaches, they get, you know, things from just hearing
18:42:59 14 the sound that we can't hear.

18:43:01 15 Also, ultrasound which we can't hear is
18:43:04 16 used as a weapon. The police literally have a gun, a
18:43:09 17 thing that makes ultrasound noise which we don't hear,
18:43:13 18 to incapacitate people who are committing crimes. So
18:43:17 19 this stuff that the power plant is going to make has
18:43:19 20 the potential to incapacitate everybody, animals and
18:43:24 21 us. We don't need anymore electricity. We don't need
18:43:28 22 this. Why are we even building this power plant that
18:43:32 23 the state does and use? Why are we building a data
18:43:36 24 center that the internet has gone for decades without
18:43:39 25 using that is going to put out sound that affects

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1 everyone? Done. Thank you.

2 MS. KOEHLE: Thank you. All right.

3 Last call for anyone who would like to
4 give testimony. Going once, anyone else like to give
5 testimony, going twice. Anyone else? All right. That
6 concludes our hearing at 6:43 p.m.

7 Please do note that there is data center
8 information from the DEP on the table out front.
9 There's also information about the specific pipeline
10 project, and there's also tools and information about
11 environmental justice on the table, tools that the
12 public can use. Please make sure you give me your
13 contact information if you signed up after the fact to
14 testify so we have a copy of it. Thank you.

* * * * *

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:44 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

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I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, a hearing held before Coordinator Koehle , was reported by me on 5/12/26 and that I, Lacey C. Scott, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 13th day of May, 2026



Lacey Scott, Court Reporter