



August 16, 2017

Delaware Riverkeeper Network Statement on Trump's August 15th Infrastructure Executive Order

President Donald Trump took a brief hiatus from his two and a half week vacation today to sign an Executive Order that will eliminate environmental protections for large infrastructure projects and that will allow for the use of public tax dollars to build federal projects that will likely soon become flooded due to climate change impacts. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network strongly opposes this Order.

This Executive Order undermines the public process for large infrastructure projects with potentially devastating impacts to communities, such as pipeline and highway projects. President Trump claims this Executive Order will “streamline” government, when it will actually steamroll public participation for the benefit of his friends in private industry by removing safeguards to grease the wheels for approvals. The Order also eliminates a rule from Former President Obama that requires that federal agencies account for future sea level rise when building federal infrastructure projects, a provision that provided much needed protection from flooding and flood damages.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) works to protect the health and safety of millions of people, and has given communities across the country a voice in decisions that can greatly affect their homes, businesses, communities, and lives. NEPA protects the environment by educating communities on a project’s potential impacts and ensuring communities have input into the decision-making regarding projects that may impact their air, water, and environment.

Today’s Order greatly diminishes the public’s ability to be educated on major projects and to have input on the project. For instance, this Order will result in the construction of pipelines without regard for public health and safety, without the full input of affected communities, and without regard for rising sea levels. This directly translates into potentially devastating development that will inevitably need to be rebuilt or abandoned once inundated by rising seas or flash floods. It will allow more infrastructure projects to be built in harm’s way, without consideration of the impacted communities. This is unjust and unwise and economically unsustainable.

Limiting NEPA in this way will silence the public, result in poorly-planned infrastructure, and put communities and tax dollars at risk.

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
dmn@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org