

Contact:

Maya van Rossum  
the Delaware Riverkeeper  
215 369 1188



## **Delaware Riverkeeper Sues FERC Over Leidy Pipeline**

*FERC's approval process of Transco projects violate federal law*

BRISTOL, PA – The Delaware Riverkeeper Network filed a lawsuit on March 8<sup>th</sup> against the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) challenging its approval of the Leidy Southeast Expansion Project pipeline. Filed with the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the suit alleges that FERC violated the National Environmental Policy Act by engaging in illegal ‘segmentation’ in its decision-making process, and by issuing its approval of the pipeline before the State of Pennsylvania had given Clean Water Act approval for the project.

According to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, FERC violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by segmenting its review of Transco’s Leidy Southeast pipeline project into at least four separate projects. Segmenting a single project into smaller pieces in order to evade full consideration of its environmental impacts is prohibited by NEPA regulations and court opinions. Most recently, in the case of *Delaware Riverkeeper Network v. FERC*, the District Court for the District of Columbia ruled this kind of segmenting of pipeline projects for review to be improper and in violation of the law.

Furthermore, the case alleges that under the Clean Water Act and court decisions, FERC is clearly obligated to wait until a state grants a Clean Water Act 401 Certification for a project before granting its own approval, and in the case of the Leidy Southeast Pipeline FERC failed to allow the state to go first.

“What FERC is doing is blatantly illegal, both under NEPA and the Clean Water Act,” says Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. “These are not paper violations of law-- they are resulting in inappropriate and premature approvals of pipelines that are robbing states and communities of the information and legal opportunity to say no.”

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is requesting that the D.C. court review FERC’s authorization of Transco to commence building the Leidy Southeast Pipeline.

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

###

Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the 4 states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.