



For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, 215-369-1188 ext. 102

Faith Zerbe, Water Watch Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215-369-1188, ext. 110

Citizen Scientists Document Natural Features Along Proposed Pipeline Path – Workshop for New Community Monitors Coming Up

Luzerne County, PA: The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is recruiting interested volunteer naturalists who can help identify, map and document natural and unique features and habitats along the proposed PennEast gas pipeline route. **A training workshop will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at the Natural Lands Trust's Bear Creek Preserve Management Center in Bear Creek Township, PA 18702 from 9:00AM to 3:30PM.** Registration in advance is required by Tuesday COB – you can sign up here: <http://bit.ly/2k5H4RD>. If you have questions about the workshop or if you are an impacted landowner and you'd like a trained volunteer monitor to help document natural features on your property, contact Faith at 215-369-1188 ext. 110.

DRN is working with concerned landowners along the route to obtain permission to perform these assessments. No experience is required but amateur naturalists, watershed groups, birders, herpers, fishermen, outdoor enthusiasts, and concerned landowners are terrific volunteers for this work. "This is the second year that DRN is training volunteers along the PennEast pipeline route and results have been positive. Pipeline watch volunteers serve as an essential double check during the review of the pipeline project and have documented many gaps and missing habitats in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement." - Faith Zerbe, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Trained volunteer monitors will visit and hike along sections of the proposed pipeline route, ideally through several seasons in 2017. The workshop will provide protocols and basic habitat training so volunteers know what to look for. An app for smart phone users will also be provided to help with documentation. DRN will compile and use the information collected to build a strong protective record and provide regulatory agencies with supplemental information at the appropriate time to ensure that all natural resources along the route are considered as agencies weigh the impacts of this pipeline project.

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

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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.