



**For Immediate release: July 22, 2014**

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## **PennEast Caught Drilling Without Permits; Drilling Discharge Clouds Spring Fed Pond**

*Holland Twp, Hunterdon County, NJ* -- On July 21, 2015 PennEast was caught by local residents and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network engaging in test drilling to try to advance their pipeline project without required permits. Residents and Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum also witnessed pollution entering a natural spring fed pond during the drilling operations.

PennEast began drilling on July 20, 2015 at 82 Old River Road in Holland Twp, NJ. July 21, when the drill rigs returned residents became concerned about hosing which seemed to be drawing water from a natural spring fed pond and that pollution was entering the pond from the drilling operations. The situation was reported to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) hotline by both residents and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Over the course of the day, while photographing and videotaping events, and pursuing DEP attention and investigation, it became clear that PennEast was drilling without the necessary DEP Well Permit. In addition, as the result of discharges from the drilling operations, the natural pond was becoming cloudy with pollution; investigation has not yet determined exactly what was entering the pond from the drill operations.

Apparently fractures in the rock resulting from the drilling operations was allowing drilling water to enter the pond. In addition, polluted water running from the drill operations into the pond was clearly visible to those on scene. It is also possible, say observers, that drill water was being discharged through hosing to the pond as well. Hoses were also collecting water from the pond for use in the drill operations rather than using the source water that apparently had been approved.

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Said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper**, who was on scene throughout the day on July 21, "PennEast hasn't even submitted their official application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for this pipeline and they are already violating the law and fouling our environment. The PennEast Pipeline companies are bad actors. While DEP apparently gave the company an after the fact permit upon learning of the violation, that is not the right response, the company should have been forced to shut down its operations and full remediation and mitigation required before DEP even considered whether or not to allow this drilling operation to continue."

"The residents of Holland Township should be very alarmed. A limited Liability Corporation, PennEast, a front for UGI, Elizabethtown Gas, AGL Resources, NJR Energy Services and South Jersey Industries, is about to file an application to construct a 36" high pressure gas line through Holland Township. On Monday July 20 PennEast directed the drilling of a 100 foot test bore on a Township right of way and private property that was undertaken without any permits and utilized spring water from a pristine pond, returning polluted waste water to that pond. A call to the NJDEP Hotline resulted in a series of denials and runarounds until the County Dept of Health came on scene and took action to investigate. All of this destruction from an LLC, PennEast, which has not yet filed a formal application to FERC," said **Holland resident on the scene Bob Rader**.

"The residents of Holland township have been entrusted with the stewardship of the environmentally significant and fragile Highlands, and we gratefully accept that responsibility. When there is a concern regarding the lawful treatment of our protected water resources during an impact such as drilling, we feel compelled to respond to ensure that all permits and best practices are in place", said **Holland resident Lorraine Crown**. " This operation should never have continued into a second day without the proper permits from NJDEP. I was distressed to observe the significant runoff from the drilling operation flow back to this pristine wildlife pond. Unfortunately PennEast has taught us to expect an inferior performance from them on issues of critical knowledge as it relates to New Jersey's environment and environmental regulations, and it makes us fearful that PennEast cannot be trusted to construct or operate a safe project or one that is compliant with the protections that the people of New Jersey have implemented for the Highlands."

Video of the events can be found at: <http://bit.ly/DRN-PennEastUnpermittedDrilling>

A copy of a report on the events of the day that was filed with appropriate officials can be found at: <http://bit.ly/DRN-PennEastUnpermittedDrillingReport>

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