



For Immediate Release
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**Thirteen State Legislators, the Pike County Commissioners,
Thirty Two Organizations including Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Oppose Tennessee Gas Pipeline Water Withdrawal and Discharge and
Request Cumulative Impact Analysis of Gas Pipeline Projects**

West Trenton, New Jersey – Substantial public opposition was strongly expressed at the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) public hearing July 11, 2012 regarding the Tennessee Gas Pipeline's (TGP) application for a water withdrawal and discharge for hydrostatic testing and directional drilling for the construction of its Northeast Upgrade Project (NEUP) in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The pipeline is part of a large TGP pipeline across both states for transporting shale gas to market and would cross the Delaware River just north of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

State representatives from Pennsylvania and New Jersey submitted letters to DRBC prior to the public hearing and 32 organizations active throughout the Delaware River Watershed requested that DRBC deny the permit request. Delaware Riverkeeper Network presented written comment and verbal testimony at the Hearing outlining why the application for the water withdrawal and discharge is premature and should not be approved based on incomplete information regarding the project and its potential impacts, missing permits and uncertainty as to the path of the project, flagrant and ongoing violations of erosion and sediment control permits resulting in stream pollution and wetland degradation by TGP for existing construction, and the lack of accurate and reliable information presented by TGP. These insufficiencies in the application and the proposed permit have the potential for sustainable adverse environmental impacts to the Delaware River, its tributaries, wetlands and upland watersheds, as explained at

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the Hearing by DRN's attorney Aaron Stemplewicz. Site specific issues and impacts of TGP's NEUP application were also presented.

DRN also explained why DRBC should exercise its authority to review the TGP NEUP project as a whole and all current pipeline projects; there are currently six major gas pipeline projects planned in the Delaware River Basin and more in the foreseeable future. DRN asked that DRBC set aside this application (and future applications) so they could assess the potential cumulative impacts of the TGP NEUP project and other pipeline projects. Potential impacts of pipeline construction include the degradation and pollution of streams, lakes, rivers, and groundwater; wetlands and other hydrologically connected ecosystems and the destruction of healthy forests that are fragmented. DRN pointed out that DRBC is required by its Rules of Practice and Procedure to take jurisdiction of pipelines involving "...significant disturbance of ground cover affecting water resources" (Article 3, section 2.3.5 (12) of RPP). It was clearly stated that TGP's NEUP involves such disturbance, therefore DRBC is required to step up and regulate the project to prevent adverse impacts. Furthermore, DRN argued that the cumulative impact of multiple major pipelines is not being assessed or addressed by any regulatory agency and must be by the DRBC if the agency is to fulfill its responsibility for protection.

A copy of the comment and exhibits presented, including copies of elected official and organizational letters are at:

<http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Comments/TGP%20NEUP%20ww%20DRBC%20Comment%207.11.12.pdf>

The League of Women Voters (Elizabeth Tatum representing chapters from the four basin states), residents from Pike County and New Jersey, New Jersey Sierra Club director Jeff Tittel, Winnie Olsen of the Lackawaxen River Conservancy, a Pennsylvania fisherman, and Delaware Riverkeeper Network all spoke against approval of the TGP permit; there were no statements made in favor of the approval. DRBC approved the application by unanimous vote at the Hearing July 11. DRN will continue to press for a cumulative impact analysis and comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of natural gas pipeline projects on the Delaware River and its Watershed.

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