



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Statement from the Delaware Riverkeeper Regarding  
PennEast's Two Phase Construction Plan**

“The announcement by PennEast that it will seek to construct its project in Pennsylvania first while it continues to pressure for approvals in New Jersey is not a surprise. This has been a common strategy of pipeline companies; they seek approval from FERC to build in the places where they can claim they have permitting and try to use that ongoing construction to pressure other agencies where approvals are outstanding. The result has been properties taken and environments destroyed for pipelines that are unable to be fully constructed. It is not a shock that this is PennEast’s strategy. What will also not be a shock, but is legally and morally wrong, is that FERC will help PennEast pursue this strategy. This announced step by PennEast makes it more important than ever that the Delaware River Basin Commission step up and be the necessary check on FERC power run amuck. PennEast cannot begin construction within the watershed absent DRBC approval – at least not legally; although I will not be surprised if PennEast and FERC seek to avoid this legal obligation. So all eyes need to turn to DRBC. And New Jersey needs to continue to maintain its strength and vigilance in denying the PennEast pipeline in order to protect the water resources and residents of our state and region, and needs to use its seat at the DRBC to make sure that the agency lives up to its obligations not to advance the dirty fossil fuel fracked gas PennEast pipeline that would inflict irreparable harm on the water resources, residents and environments of our region. This announcement also stands as further evidence for next week’s hearing before Congress’s Committee on Energy and Commerce as to why Natural Gas Act reform needs to be a priority,” **said Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum who leads the regional Delaware Riverkeeper Network**, a leading opponent of the PennEast pipeline as well as FERC’s abuses of power and law.

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