

Action Alert:

Come Testify Before the Delaware River Basin Commission Regarding the PennEast Pipeline Project

DRBC is empowered with the responsibility to protect our water resources.

Let's Make Sure They Fully Consider All the Impacts

The PennEast Pipeline Project right-of-way will permanently scar our environment and communities for over 108 miles in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Approximately 87% of the right of way will cut within the boundaries of the Delaware River watershed. The pipeline will cross approximately 33 wetland areas and 60 waterways, including the Delaware River and the Lehigh River. Also targeted are forests as well as public and private lands.



The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has the legal authority, and we believe the legal obligation, to look at the cumulative impacts of the entire project as it cuts through the watershed, including how the harms of this project will be magnified by the impacts of other recent and proposed pipeline projects. It is important that the DRBC exercise the full-extent of their legal authority and consider the full array of environmental and water resource impacts. Please come testify if you can.

Date: December 9, 2014

Time: Meeting begins at 1:30 pm, public comment comes later in the agenda.

Place: Washington Crossing Historic Park Visitor Center, 1112 River Road,
Washington Crossing, PA

What you need to do:

- ↳ The DRBC asks that if you know you intend to speak to please sign up in advance by either sending an email to Paula Schmitt Paula.Schmitt@drbc.state.nj.us or phoning her at 609 883 9500 ext 225. You do not have to sign up in advance to testify, but it is helpful if there is a significant turnout.
- ↳ Plan to limit your testimony to the 3 minute time frame the Commissioners request of commenters and be prepared to focus your comments on how the PennEast pipeline project will involve a significant disturbance of ground cover affecting water resources of the basin and how it will affect the Delaware River and its tributary streams.

DRBC regulations require them to consider:

- If there is a significant disturbance of ground cover affecting water resources;
- If a project could cause measurable change in existing water quality (except towards natural conditions) for Special Protection Waters which will include the section the Delaware River impacted by this project;
- Impacts from the project on existing or proposed reservoir or recreation areas that have been incorporated into the DRBC Comprehensive Plan which, in this case will include, according to DRBC: Beltzville Reservoir (Towamensing Twp., PA), Francis E. Walter Reservoir (Bear Creek Twp. and Kidder Twp., PA), Hickory Run State Park (Kidder Twp., PA), Beltzville State Park (Towamensing Twp., PA), Delaware Canal State Park (Riegelsville Borough, PA), the Lower Delaware River Wild & Scenic Area (Holland Twp., NJ), and potentially, Washington Crossing State Park (West Amwell Twp., NJ).

When speaking to the DRBC direct your comments at the impacts of the PennEast Pipeline project on water quality, stream and River health. Ideas for information to consider and/or share:

- All the streams and wetlands in your community you believe will be impacted and whether those streams or wetlands have any special designations or qualities that might be harmed.
- The forests, meadows and habitats that will be cut down and transformed for the project.
- The pollution you believe will be discharged to streams during and after construction – this can include both intentional direct discharges as well as pollution washed off of the land,
- Deforestation and soil compaction will occur and will increase the volume of stormwater runoff to streams – increasing pollution inputs, erosion, and flood waters in streams.
- Concerns regarding chemicals used on the land for Right of Way maintenance e.g. herbicides to prevent vegetation regrowth, entering nearby streams through rainfall, wind or accident during application.
- When pipelines cross sensitive headwater and smaller 1st and 2nd order streams and springs, these cuts change the hydrology of these streams irreparably.
- Impacts from the denuding of streamside lands along the 60 waterbodies (most in our watershed) that will result in increased stream temperatures, erosion, loss of aquatic habitat, and polluted runoff entering creeks and reduced macroinvertebrate communities important for pollution processing.
- How the permanent removal of vegetation in wetlands will alter the pollution removal and high quality habitat they provide important for our streams, communities and environment.

Mention how over 70% of this project requires fresh cuts across the landscape, that approximately 85% of this project is in our watershed, and that the sheer acreage of the land disturbance and habitat damage will inevitably cause a substantial increase in the volume of runoff and pollution that will impact water resources.

Emphasize the importance of DRBC considering and regulating the entire length of the project, not just the parts crossing Comprehensive Plan areas.

Emphasize the importance of the DRBC considering in its review the cumulative impacts from other linear infrastructure and land disturbance activities.

Request that the Commission include foreseeable induced development that would occur as a result of the project (e.g. new compressor stations, generation facilities, gathering pipelines, etc.).