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SOMERSET COUNTY OFFICE
BY APPOINTMENT

November 3, 2014

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1919-1980
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1924-1986
E. HERBERT KIEFER
1933-1988

- ALSO MEMBER OF PA BAR
- ▼ ALSO MEMBER OF NY BAR
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RICHARD P. CUSHING
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Honorable Cheryl A. LaFleur, Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: PennEast Pipeline Proposal
Hunterdon County, New Jersey
Pre-Filing Docket No. PF-15-1-000

Dear Ms. LaFleur:

Enclosed please find Resolution #124-14 of the Town of Clinton in opposition to the PennEast Pipeline.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD P. CUSHING

RPC/pmh

Enclosure

CC: Anthony C. Cox, PennEast Pipeline Co, LLC
Mayor and Committee, Town of Clinton

TOWN OF CLINTON
RESOLUTION #124-14

WHEREAS, PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC, a joint project of AGL Resources, NJR Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of New Jersey Resources, South Jersey Industries, and UGI Energy Services, a subsidiary of UGI Corporation, proposed the construction of a new pipeline for the transfer and deliver of natural gas generated by deep well “fracking” in areas of Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline is approximately one hundred (100) miles long of thirty inch (30”) buried pipe crossing parts of Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania and Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, as currently proposed, the pipeline cuts through Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, causing or contributing to the following:

1. The proposed route of the buried pipeline route crosses many C-1 streams, tributaries, and headwater areas; and
2. The proposed route impacts pristine woods and forests causing damage to wildlife and plant life; and
3. Said removal of trees and vegetation along creeks, streams and waterways will result in the loss of sediment filtration, thereby causing sediment buildup in these waterways that sources of drinking water for millions of New Jersey residents; and
4. The proposed route crosses properties that were purchased with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Funds, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Funds, Delaware Township and other Hunterdon County Municipal Open Space Funds, Federal Farm and Ranch Protection Program Funds, New Jersey Water Supply Authority Funds, as well as other properties that are subject to conservation easements and/or deed restricted against development; and

5. The proposed route crosses or affects properties that were purchased by non-profit land conservation and protection organizations including the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the D&R Greenway, and the Hunterdon Land Trust; and
6. The taxpayers of the State of New Jersey, Hunterdon County, Delaware Township as well as foundations and individual donors and farmers and landowners have invested \$7,375,601 to permanently preserve these properties in perpetuity; and
7. The proposed route crosses the Rosemont Ridge Agricultural District that received New Jersey and Federal Historic Designation in 2010, said district covering 2,360 acres, 169 buildings, and historic viewsheds as well as historic agricultural land use patterns and landscapes; and
8. The proposed route will impact Township owned open space, privately held open space, and scenic vistas; and
9. The proposed route and the construction of pump stations along the way will impact ground water that Delaware Township residents depend on for domestic consumption, wetlands, springs, vernal ponds, and C-1 designated streams, all of which are highly valued by residents and visitors, are necessary for Delaware Township's way of life, and are irreplaceable; and
10. The proposed route of the pipeline may invade habitats of species protected by the Endangered Species Act, such as eagles, the wood turtle, the long tailed salamander, and various plants and other animals protected by federal and state law; and
11. WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline causes damage to the municipalities of Delaware, Holland, Kingwood, West Amwell and Alexandria residents as well as Hopewell in Mercer County, by lowering property values, raising health concerns, raising safety concerns, impacting farms and residences, and generally degrading their quality of life and the historic, environmental and cultural resources they have dedicated themselves to protecting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Town of Clinton Council does hereby object to the design and construction of a 30 inch pipeline passing through and under the aforementioned municipalities. The construction and operation of the pipeline will significantly damage C-1 protected streams, wildlife habitat, existing farm operations, and the quality of life in their quality of life.

2. The Clinton Town Council calls for a moratorium on any and all planning for the PennEast Pipeline and requests that any such project, if approved, be removed from the pristine reaches of Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey and Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania
3. The Clinton Town Council seeks the cooperation of other similarly located and affected municipalities, asking that all nearby affected municipalities adopt a similar resolution.
4. The Clinton Town Council adopts, and calls upon similarly situated municipalities to adopt a resolution authorizing each municipality to join together to enter their appearance in any proceeding before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the Delaware River Basin Commission, the New Jersey Public Utility Commission, and any other regulatory authority, so that by the strength of numbers they may successfully oppose the PennEast Pipeline project and have the ability to cause the relocation or termination of the project so as to prevent environmental degradation and to project the environment envisioned by the State of New Jersey.
5. Clinton Town Council recognizes that the pipeline could be beneficial to society through potentially lower natural gas prices in the national economy, though these mentioned municipalities will benefit from any of the natural gas being transported through this pipeline. These municipalities determines that the damage outweighs any benefit these municipalities will gain.

ATTEST:

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk
October 14, 2014

Janice Kovach, Mayor