

**Clean Air Council • Delaware Riverkeeper Network • Lancaster Against Pipelines • Lebanon Pipeline Awareness • Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness • Shalefield Organizing Committee • Sierra Club**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Pennsylvania Residents Demonstrate and Demand the State DEP Deny Water Quality Permits for the Controversial Atlantic Sunrise Gas Pipeline at Public Hearings**

**Statewide** — This week, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is holding four public hearings across the state for permit applications for the nearly 200-mile Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline, which would transport fracked gas from the Marcellus Shale to Maryland for export and to supply gas plants in North Carolina and Florida. Transco, the parent company of the proposed Atlantic Sunrise pipeline, must obtain Chapter 102 and 105 permits from the DEP for wetland and waterway crossings and earth disturbances.

If approved, the Atlantic Sunrise gas pipeline would directly impact ten Pennsylvania counties and cross hundreds of wetlands and waterbodies — many of which are designated high quality or exceptional value. The pipeline would also directly affect 45,000 residents and place 19,000 homes in the evacuation zone, according to [a recent report](#) commissioned by the Sierra Club and Appalachian Mountain Advocates.

"The applications for this destructive project are still incomplete and deficient," said **Alex Bomstein, Senior Litigation Attorney of Clean Air Council**. "It would be premature and against the law for DEP to permit this pipeline without first making sure Williams fixes the problems in its applications."

"The mission statement of the DEP is 'to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment,' but it is clear that the cumulative impacts of the Atlantic Sunrise project will cause massive environmental degradation and put citizens in harm's way," said **Ann Pinca, President of Lebanon Pipeline Awareness**. "The DEP cannot approve these permits without directly violating its own mission statement."

"This project has failed to receive both the serious environmental review and adequate public participation necessary," said **Patrick Grenter, Senior Campaign Representative of Sierra**

**Club.** “People from around Pennsylvania have voiced their sustained opposition to this dangerous proposal. It is time for Governor Wolf to listen to his constituents and reject this pipeline.”

"Governor Wolf's formal statement urging President Trump to keep the U.S. in the climate agreement noted that climate change is a pressing issue for Pennsylvania. If he is sincere in his understanding of the climate crisis, he has no choice but to instruct the DEP to deny permits that are the state's only line of defense against natural gas pipelines like the Atlantic Sunrise. Natural gas pipelines are big investments that are intended to be in service for at least 50 years. If we are to pull back from the climate precipice, we must be off of all fossil fuels much sooner than that. Surely the Governor understands that," said **Karen Feridun, Founder of Berks Gas Truth.**

“The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has been a rubber stamp for the pipeline industry harming communities time and time again with the frenzy of approvals for gas infrastructure projects due to Marcellus shale exploitation in this state and beyond,” said **Faith Zerbe, Director of Monitoring, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.** “Pennsylvania can no longer be a fossil fuel sacrifice zone beholden to this broken unfair system and rogue federal agency - the cost to our environment and health is too high and risky. Governor Wolf and his DEP have an opportunity to protect this state and we urge them to deny these water permits.”

“Fossil fuels have left legacy contamination and polluted waterways in Pennsylvania we are still cleaning up with taxpayer money long after the industry is gone. It’s time we look to the future and invest in sustainable and renewable jobs, not more fracking and pipeline build outs that will lock us into harmful climate trapping exploitation for decades to come, said **Leah Zerbe, Co-Founder, Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness.** “We urge Governor Wolf to stand up for Pennsylvania families and the environment and deny these permits.”

Pennsylvania families, impacted landowners, community groups, and advocacy organizations in opposition to this pipeline will be attending these hearings to urge the DEP and Governor Tom Wolf to deny the two water permits. The public is also requesting an extension of the June 26, 2017 deadline following the issuance of a series of technical deficiency letters from the DEP.

Date and Time	Location
Monday, June 12, 2017 6:00 to 9:00 PM	Tunkhannock Middle School Auditorium, Franklin Avenue, Tunkhannock PA 18657
Monday, June 12, 2017 6:00 to 9:00 PM	Max Smith Auditorium, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 6:00 to 9:00 PM	Auditorium, Bloomsburg High School, 1200 Railroad Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Wednesday, June 14, 2017 6:00 to 9:00 PM	Lutz Hall, Lebanon Valley College, 101 North College Avenue, Annville, PA 17003

More information about the hearings and some application materials for public review can be found on the DEP's website: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/ProgramIntegration/Pennsylvania-Pipeline-Portal/Pages/Atlantic-Sunrise.aspx>

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