May 30, 2016

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Request for extension of scoping period for Millennium Pipeline Company, LLC Eastern System Upgrade Project, PF16-3

Dear Ms. Bose,

On May 11, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) released a notice of intent to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for Millennium Pipeline Company, LLC’s proposed Eastern System Upgrade project and a request for comments on the projects potential environmental impacts by June 10, 2016. FERC has not successfully made available the documents requested by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network that are necessary to inform our comment on the EA within this timeframe. As such, I am requesting an extension of the comment period by 90 days in order to allow us time to receive the documents, for our experts to review the documents, and for our expert and Delaware Riverkeeper Network to prepare and submit comment based upon the highly technical information included in the documents.

On April 29, 2016, CEII Draft Resource Reports 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12 of Millennium Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (accession number: 20160429-5421) were filed re FERC docket number PF16-3. Delaware Riverkeeper Network submitted a CEII request form (no. CE16-098) for this information and non-disclosure agreements for several reviewers, including our hired technical expert, immediately following the filing. While there is no regulated time frame for FERC to respond to CEII requests, we have recently been told to expect our response within 45 business days of our submission. This would mean that we will not receive the requested information until July 1, 2016, three weeks after the deadline for public comments on the EA.

This is unacceptable. The Critical Energy Infrastructure Information within these reports is vital to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network’s full assessment of the proposed project and our ability to submit informed and meaningful comment that fully captures potential impacts to the ecological resources and communities we represent.

We cannot provide a meaningful and thorough comment on the proposed project without this critical project information. FERC is required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) to discover and address all concerns that the public may have about proposals and to consider all concerns in the project EA. Given that FERC has prevented the Delaware Riverkeeper Network from even securing – let alone
reviewing and commenting upon -- critical information regarding the project within the comment period, an appropriate extension is clearly required.

In order to ensure a full and fair opportunity for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network to submit comment, FERC must provide a 90 day extension of the time for comment in order to allow us the time necessary to secure, review and craft meaningful comment (this is presuming that FERC in fact makes the documents available within 45 days from the date we submitted our request). Failure to provide this requested extension is a failure to fulfill the mandates of NEPA. As such, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network requests and urges that the public scoping period for the Eastern System Upgrade’s EA be extended by 90 days, or a minimum of 45 days after the CEII information is released, to ensure our full and fair opportunity to review and comment upon this critical aspect of the project proposal and to ensure the public has a fair and meaningful opportunity to benefit from our comments in conducting their own assessment of, and comments for, the Millennium Eastern System Upgrade Project.

Sincerely,

Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper

CC: Eric Howard, Environmental Project Manager
VIA EMAIL: eric.howard@ferc.gov