

**Delaware Riverkeeper Network ~ Sierra Club ~ Sourland Conservancy
Berks Gas Truth ~ Clean Water Action ~ Environment NJ**

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**Over 1,200 Organizations and Individuals
Sign On to Letter Against PennEast, Delivered to DRBC**

West Trenton, NJ – A letter signed by over 1,200 organizations and individuals urging the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to withhold consideration about the PennEast pipeline project was delivered to DRBC executive director Steve Tambini on September 7. Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) and other community organizations are urging DRBC to formally find the information on file about the PennEast pipeline project insufficient.

With the Federal Agency Regulatory Commission's (FERC) quorum restored, the proposed PennEast pipeline is expected to receive a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in the near future. However, other permitting agencies, including the US Army Corps of Engineers, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and DRBC can still say no. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has already said that PennEast's application is too deficient for decision-making. The US Army Corps of Engineers also identified multiple deficiencies in project applications and information. Similarly, the FERC final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) also notes missing information, much of which pertains to the health and quality of the water in the Delaware River watershed, which is under DRBC jurisdiction.

In April 2017, NJDEP found the materials submitted for the PennEast pipeline project insufficient. Subsequently, on June 28, 2017, NJDEP determined the PennEast Pipeline Company's application for state approval of its project to be "administratively closed" due to the company's failure to provide full information in a timely manner.

The letter delivered today encourages DRBC to similarly find the information on file with the regulatory agency to be insufficient and incomplete and urges the DRBC not to take any of the pipeline project under consideration until complete information is submitted.

The letter asks DRBC to not hold any public hearings about the pipeline until all information is accurate and submitted. Additionally, the letter asks DRBC to confirm its intent to enforce its authority as written in a November 14, 2014 letter to the PennEast Pipeline Company that says, "DRBC review and approval are required prior to the commencement of any water withdrawal, discharge, or earth disturbance activities."

"DRBC has a pivotal role to play in review of the PennEast pipeline. They are the only agency that is dedicated to ensuring the protection of water resources here in the Delaware River watershed. As we have shown them time and time again with expert reports, as NJDEP has said in their recent decision to close the application without decision, as even FERC's EIS has made clear, there is not full, complete or accurate

information on the threats PennEast poses for our environment, particularly our water resources. And so it is incumbent on DRBC to make clear to PennEast that it, like New Jersey, is going to close the door on review of the project at this time. To do anything else would be to render a decision on bad information,” **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper**, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

“The Delaware River Basin Commission needs to do its job and protect the Delaware River from this unnecessary and damaging pipeline. They need to follow their own rules and regulations and kick out this dangerous project that threatens our watershed. The information submitted by PennEast in their EIS is incomplete, misleading, and even false. The DRBC should deny them any permits and reject their EIS. This is the water supply for 17 million people and a Wild and Scenic Area with Special Protection Waters, and we must protect it,” **said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club**. “The DRBC needs to do what the NJDEP did and reject PennEast’s application because the Delaware River is too important to allow this project to move forward. Don’t ruin the basin, Commissions, do your job and reject PennEast!”

“The Delaware River Basin Commission can’t sit out the PennEast debate or give PennEast a pass. The mission of the Commission is to protect the Delaware River watershed, and the PennEast pipeline is a clear and present ecological danger to the watershed,” **said Doug O’Malley, Director of Environment New Jersey**. “The DRBC can rely on NJDEP’s decision to reject PennEast’s application. PennEast is clearly playing fast and loose, and has presented incomplete and false information to both FERC & NJDEP. The expectation is that FERC will fulfill their rubberstamp mission for the gas industry. We need the DRBC to fulfill its ecological mission by denying PennEast the right to tear an ecological scar through our watershed.”

"PennEast is trying to get away with what every school kid understands upon returning from summer recess they can't -- you don't get approval without doing your summer reading. New Jersey has said PennEast hasn't done its homework, the record's incomplete, so it can't be complete for DRBC. DRBC needs to be the good school teacher, state the obvious, and disapprove of PennEast's actions or lack thereof," **said David Pringle, New Jersey Campaign Director at Clean Water Action**.

"The Sourland Conservancy urges the DRBC to protect the Delaware River from the damage it will sustain if this pipeline is built. The Sourland Mountain region’s environmental resources will be severely impacted by the proposed pipeline. As one-third of the Mountain’s waterways drain westward, the Delaware River will bear the brunt of these impacts. PennEast’s EIS is incomplete and misleading; DRBC must reject PennEast’s application and refrain from holding any hearings until such time that all environmental requirements are met by PennEast," **said Caroline Katmann, Executive Director of Sourland Conservancy**.

Several community members also signed the letter, citing concerns for the environment and their homes.

“We ask the DRBC to defend/protect the environment, and the people, by insuring us that PennEast will meet all necessary environmental requirements, before allowing the “Rubber Stampede” process to begin at FERC. To date, it is obvious that PennEast has been deficient in meeting these requirements,” **said John Crum** of Bridgeton Township, PA.

“For the last 2 1/2 years my young children and I have lived with the threat of the PennEast Pipeline destroying the organic farm we have built and putting us in an "incineration zone." As we get closer to FERC rubber stamping this project, my children keep asking me where we will go. All this as they start school! In a world full of chaos and bad decisions, I put them to bed every night reminding them people are

capable of making good decisions too. I hold out hope that in the end that will be the case regarding this unneeded and dangerous project,” said **Jacqueline Evans** of Delaware Township, NJ.

“DRBC, please enforce your authority, demand PennEast provide complete and accurate information, and once verified, hold full and open public hearings before any permissions are granted to PennEast. Because there are no second chances to keep our water and land safe,” **Susan Dodd Meacham** of Holland Township, NJ said.

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