

# *Don't Gas the Pinelands!*

## FACT SHEET

1. South Jersey Gas is fast-tracking permits to lay a 22-mile, high pressure, 24 inch diameter gas pipeline, from Millville to BL England electric generating site at Beesley's Point, Upper Township. This site is wishing to switch from coal to gas source electricity.
2. 15 miles will cut through the heart of the Pinelands, putting its unique, irreplaceable eco-system, and 17- trillion-gallon pure water aquifer at grave risk.
3. This gas-pipeline project is in violation of the Pinelands Commission's, *Comprehensive Management Plan*, regardless of whether it is laid on roadsides or middle of roads.
4. Forest fires are part of the natural cycle of the Pinelands. With 8 segments of pipe running through the Pinelands, a gas leak would be extremely destructive to the eco-systems as well as the Firefighters. Fire-maps of the area indicate that significant parts of the pipeline route are through high or medium to high risk fire areas.
5. NJ Pinelands is the first National Reserve designated in the USA. In 1988 it became a UNESCO Biosphere.
6. The Pinelands has 92 Threatened or Endangered plant, and 43 T & E animal species.
7. According to NJ Sierra Club (NJSC), there is no need for a gas plant in Beesley's Point. Energy use in NJ is dropping, and the BL England site "would make a great facility to use offshore wind generation". The Pinelands pipeline is an industry solution, beneficial to corporate interests and not this UNESCO Reserve. The *Pinelands Commission* and public at large need to take the opportunity of decommissioning a coal burner as a time for all of us to look at real alternatives that are not as environmentally invasive and destructive.
8. NJ Sierra Club fears that the project's end goal is the exportation of natural gas, perpetuating *fracking* of the USA, particularly the Marcellus and Utica shale areas of Pa and adjoining states. This is not a path to US energy self-sufficiency and domestic autonomy, but a profit path for industry, and one that will likely drive higher domestic gas prices.
9. The federal EPA lists carbon dioxide as a pollutant, and lists CO2 the major contributor to climate change. A conversion of the BL England plant from coal to gas will produce millions of tons of greenhouse gases over its lifetime.
10. According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), "...ultrafine particles may be emitted in high particle number from natural gas power plants; some evidence does exist that certain types of ultrafine particles have an independent role in human health impacts, and are perhaps more of a health concern than larger size particles". Further health studies are recommended. (Report August 12, 2012).
11. Deadline for final determination by BL England to re-power to gas is December 31, 2013
12. The Pinelands Commission has the ability to withhold permission for the gas pipeline. Ultimately Governor Christopher Christie holds the fate of the Pine Barrens in his hand.

We, citizens and organizations of South Jersey -Pinelands Action Coalition, (PAC)- oppose a pipeline through our Pinelands area <http://www.pinelandsalliance.org/>

Next Pinelands Cmte. Mtg. **Fri. Sep 27th @ 9.30am , 15 Springfield Road, Pemberton, NJ 08064**

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