



*For Immediate Release:*

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## **Tennessee Gas Pipeline Chainsaw Crews Rush to Cut Down Forests Over Holiday Weekend - DRBC Urged to Act - Citizens' Rally Against Forest Destruction - Monday 10am**

*Montague, NJ & Milford, PA:* Less than 24 hours after FERC approval was granted for tree clearing of "Pipeline Loop 323" that would cut through the Delaware River Watershed, Tennessee Gas Pipeline chainsaw crews, with trucks with Wisconsin license plates, began invading the forests and cutting thousands of 70-year old trees along the controversial Northeast Upgrade Pipeline project (NEUP) that would carry fracked natural gas from drilling zones in Pennsylvania across into New Jersey to other markets. The fracking pipeline infrastructure project by Kinder Morgan is affecting communities throughout parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey - map of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Project here:

<http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Factsheets/Combined%20TGP%20Project%20MAP%20FINAL.jpg>

While legal avenues are still being pursued by Delaware Riverkeeper Network and others against Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, a coalition of over 50 environmental groups and citizens have been urging the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to use their jurisdiction to regulate these large pipeline projects and to reopen the docket for the NEUP. As one of five votes on the DRBC, the Army Corps was also urged to step in at this critical time - especially since the

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freshwater wetlands permit in Pennsylvania (Section 404) is still actively under review by the Corps.

On February 15, 2013, Delaware Riverkeeper Network re-submitted a petition to DRBC to reopen a rehearing request for the NEUP docket. Read more about DRBC's reversal of its position on pipelines here:

[http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/PressReleases/PR\\_DRBC\\_300&1278\\_lines.pdf](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/PressReleases/PR_DRBC_300&1278_lines.pdf)

Read about the legal injunction here:

[http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/PressReleases/PR\\_DC\\_Injunction\\_decision.pdf](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/PressReleases/PR_DC_Injunction_decision.pdf)

Concerned citizens are meeting at a private residence in Milford, PA this Sunday at noon to learn protest skills and organize a rally to be held Monday at 10am. Citizens interested in attending the Sunday noon training should call Alex at 570-269-9589 for directions. People attending will also learn how they can better watchdog the pipeline company's actions and how to report pollution problems they may observe. **An outdoor rally for all ages will be held on Monday, February 18 at 10am at 10 Mountain Road, Montague, NJ where forests are being cut along the mountainside and an 87-year old resident is facing massive anguish caused by the destruction of Tennessee Gas Pipeline who took his land through eminent domain.**

"TGP has run into the forest with their chainsaws this weekend for fear citizens will successfully find a legal path to stop them. This is just another subversion of the legal process - undermining it and avoiding it," said **Maya van Rossum the Delaware Riverkeeper**. "This doesn't mean we won't still be challenging this pipeline and how it's being developed as wrong, we will. But Tennessee Gas is trying to make darn sure we can't save the old trees as part of our success."

**Jolie DeFies, Save Cummins Hill**, "TGP is disgraceful and obviously DOESN'T want to work with this community. They've sent us a clear message by hiring out of state workers and started cutting trees immediately in advance of final permit approval. That action alone is the epitome of spitefulness and arrogance. We shouldn't be surprised though because TGP has a horrendous track record of broken promises, shoddy work and intimidation tactics. Mr. George Feighner, a true patriot who didn't sell out, the ONLY person who didn't take their money was the first to have his trees cut even though there are miles and miles to cut on state land and in other less controversial areas."

“As a lifelong Pike County resident, I've seen the violations and destruction of the Columbia Pipeline built in 2011 across my road and the Tennessee Pipeline up to Milford. It's devastating to me to see that our politicians up the chain haven't learned their lesson that natural gas companies have no respect for the people in their path, especially Barack Obama,” **said Alex Lotorto, Pike County resident.**

“We have surveyed and photo-documented past damage done by Tennessee Gas in northern New Jersey and came down river to survey damage along Loop 323 as tree felling begins in Montague. It's not a good day for mother earth,” **said Diane Wexler and Beverly Budz, North Jersey Pipeline Walkers.**

To see photos of damage done by TGP:

<http://northjerseypipelinewalkers.com/TREE%20FELLING--MONTAGUE.pdf>

<http://www.facebook.com/Delaware.Riverkeeper.Network>

To stay updated on citizen action around the Tennessee Gas Pipeline:

<http://www.facebook.com/StopTheTennesseeGasPipelineNeup?ref=ts&fref=ts>

<http://www.notennesseepipeline.blogspot.com/>

To write a letter to DRBC and to learn more about this project and the legal actions underway:

<http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/act-now/urgent-details.aspx?Id=139>

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