



April 26, 2012

Public Statement Re Pond Eddy Bridge

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network calls on PennDOT to abandon the Pond Eddy Bridge replacement project in the Upper Scenic Delaware River. This unnecessary project will put fish, boaters and the local economy at risk and is a waste of taxpayer money.

(Bristol, PA) The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is calling on PennDOT officials to halt plans to replace the historic Pond Eddy bridge between Pike County, Pennsylvania and Sullivan County, New York. In order to replace the more than 100-year-old bridge, PennDOT has indicated in meetings that the agency will need to build two causeways across the Delaware River impeding the flow of the waterway. This would be a threat to migratory fish such as American Shad.

If causeways are built they could block river ice, creating a hazard. The causeways would also require boaters to portage their kayaks and canoes around the structure placing them at risk of injury. Livery owners and other ecotourism businesses could experience a drop in revenue. The project also calls for erecting a new bridge lower and closer to the water, raising concerns over whether the structure can withstand severe floods. PennDOT is trying to avoid having this project undergo a federal environmental review despite this section of the river being part of the country's Wild and Scenic River system.

In meetings to discuss a new bridge design, PennDOT officials say details about the size of the two causeways will not be released until the final stages of the project,

keeping the public in the dark about the environmental impact. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is calling on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service to conduct a full review.

This project is also financially irresponsible. Penn DOT is seeking to replace the current span with a bridge that has a 40-ton weight limit to service a community with less than 12 residents. Estimates on the cost of this bridge replacement vary but are likely to exceed \$12 million. The Pond Eddy Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and should be rehabilitated.

To learn more see the Delaware Riverkeeper Network video at:

<http://youtu.be/KQaJlCjTYk>

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