

Constitution Pipeline delayed, but hundreds of trees already cut down



By **Candy Woodall** | cwoodall@pennlive.com

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on March 10, 2016 at 2:42 PM, updated March 10, 2016 at 4:57 PM

The Constitution Pipeline is delayed, and the setback has created a situation in northeastern Pennsylvania that Megan Holleran feared.

Last month, [she and her family lost hundreds of maple trees](#), which were cut down to make room for the 124-mile pipeline.

The pipeline will connect Marcellus Shale gas in Susquehanna County to consumer markets in New York and New England states.

Now that the pipeline is delayed, Holleran is both angry and vindicated.

"It was senseless to cut down the trees in Pennsylvania before they were sure they could move forward. At the same time, it proves we were right," she said.

Holleran asked Williams Partners, the Oklahoma-based pipeline builder, to wait until it received all of its approvals before clearing about 200 trees on her family's 23-acre property in New Milford.

The \$875 million project - a partnership among Williams, Cabot Oil & Gas, Piedmont Natural Gas and WGL Holdings - is still awaiting some environmental permits in New York.

ADVERTISING

THE SHALE BARGAIN

['We will be here as long as it takes': protesters launch encampment opposing Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline](#)

[Atlantic Sunrise pipeline opponents set to begin encampment in Lancaster County](#)

[Harrisburg revs up for natural gas severance tax fight](#)

['This is our yard': Pipeline opponents build structures to block \\$3B Atlantic Sunrise project](#)

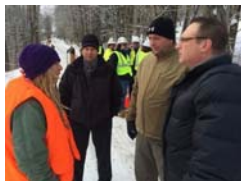
[Third time's the charm for Gov. Tom Wolf's natural gas severance tax?](#)

[All Stories](#)

"If they cut them down and the project doesn't move forward, we can't get these trees back," **Holleran said last month.**

The pipeline is waiting on permits from the New York Department of Conservation and the Army Corp of Engineers, but it will move forward, **Williams spokesman Chris Stockton said last month.**

"The project is under the jurisdiction of the federal government, and the federal government already approved it," he said.



Pipeline builder can cut down Pa. family's maple trees, federal judge says

Until this week, **Constitution Pipeline** was on target to be in service by the end of this year and had already cut down several miles of trees in Pennsylvania.

But on Thursday the company issued **a statement** saying it has changed its in-service date from the fourth quarter this year to the second half of 2017.

Constitution Pipeline builders haven't been able to start clearing trees in New York because the pipeline hasn't received a necessary water quality permit.

Without the permit, the tree-clearing can't be completed by the March 31 deadline to avoid disrupting birds and bats.

Limited construction is expected to begin this summer, and full construction will begin after Oct. 1 "to minimize and avoid adverse impacts to migratory birds and the Northern Long Eared Bat," **according to a company statement.**



'Piece of paradise' lost to pipeline development

Pipeline construction is estimated to support more than 2,400 jobs and generate \$130 million in labor income for the region, according to the statement. The pipeline's overall economic impact is anticipated to reach more than \$13 million in local tax revenue and \$600,000 in new income in the region.

Once the Constitution Pipeline is in service, it will deliver enough natural gas to serve approximately 3 million U.S. homes, including those in Pennsylvania and New York, according to the statement.

"There are consumers, power plants and utility companies there that are still getting their natural gas from the Gulf of Mexico or Canada," Stockton said last month. "There's gas right in their backyard that they can't tap. The Constitution Pipeline was designed to change that."

Despite pushback in both Pennsylvania and New York, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the pipeline in December 2014 and denied challenges to the project in January.

Federal agency funded by energy industry has never rejected a pipeline plan



Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our **User Agreement** and **Privacy Policy**

© 2016 PA Media Group. All rights reserved (**About Us**).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of PA Media Group.

Community Rules apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

[▶ Ad Choices](#)