



**Media Advisory**  
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**Contact**

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**PADEP Announces Public Hearing & Comment Period  
for Transco REAE Pipeline Water and Encroachment Permits**

On August 26th, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) announced a public hearing and open comment period for review on the Transcontinental Gas and Pipeline Company's (Transco) Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 Permits for the Regional Energy Access Expansion gas pipeline (REAE). This announcement comes after several deficiency letters noticed by the PADEP and delays by the pipeline applicant to provide adequate information to deem the application complete. This proposed natural gas pipeline is slated to run through five counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, threatening the protection of numerous wetlands, forests, endangered species populations, and over 40 Exceptional Value and High Quality streams.

**WHAT:** Public Comment Period and Hearing announced by PADEP on Transco's Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 proposed application permits for the REAE Pipeline

**WHEN:** Virtual Public Hearing scheduled for Wednesday October 5th at 7 PM; Deadline for submitting Public Written Comments is October 12th at 5 PM

**WHERE:** Written comments can be submitted with talking points through the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's website at <https://bit.ly/TranscoPipeline>, or emailed directly to the PADEP's permitting office at [RA-EPREGIONALPERMIT@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPREGIONALPERMIT@pa.gov).

**WHO:** Residents of Chester County, Luzerne County, Monroe County, Gloucester County, and the greater Delaware River Watershed concerned about pipeline development, antidegradation, high quality and exceptional value streams, climate change, fracking, riparian buffers, wetland degradation, deforestation, and endangered species protection

**Background:** Transco is proposing to construct the REAE natural gas pipeline, which consists of 22.3 miles of 30-inch-diameter pipeline in Luzerne County, PA, 13.8 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Monroe County, PA, a gas-fired turbine driven compressor station in Gloucester County, NJ, and several other modifications to existing pipeline and compressor stations. The pipeline would impact 114 Exceptional Value wetlands, 77 bodies of water supporting cold water fisheries, 39 High Quality streams, 2 Exceptional Value streams, 17 Class A Wild Trout Streams, 57 waterbodies with naturally reproducing trout, and 297 acres of forests. As a [recent report from Our Pocono Waters](#) states, our rivers and streams provide value — environmental, social, and economic benefits to our communities.

“If Transco’s application is approved, it would allow harmful open cuts across sensitive high quality and exceptional value streams, destroying riparian buffers and floodplain habitats across the watershed,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and Leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network**, “We have documented damage from past pipelines using similar crossing and cutting techniques, so we urge the PADEP to deny the application based upon evidence of past harms.”

On Friday, August 26th, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network sent a letter to the PADEP asking the agency to extend the public comment period by at least 90 days based upon the large amount of community concern and multiple impacts proposed for this pipeline. In the letter, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network urges the agency to deny the expansion of this pipeline due to the harm it would cause to the watershed’s natural resources. In addition, the letter argues that as Transco has received a number of extensions on this case, the public should receive the same amount of support, especially as the current timeframe for public comments excludes some community members from participating. On Friday, September 2nd, at 3PM before the Labor Day holiday weekend, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network received notice that the PADEP denied this request for extension of comment.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has trained pipeline watch volunteer monitors along proposed and existing pipeline paths for over a decade. If you live in the region of the proposed pipeline, are an impacted adjacent landowner, or would like to help monitor conditions and field truth documents for this pipeline, please contact Faith Zerbe, Director of Monitoring, at [faith@delawariverkeeper.org](mailto:faith@delawariverkeeper.org) or call 215-369-1188 ext. 110.

To learn more about Transco’s proposal and to submit a written public comment, please visit: <https://www.delawariverkeeper.org/node/6939/>

To read the Delaware Riverkeeper Network’s August 26th letter requesting an extension on the public comment period, please visit:

<https://www.delawariverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/Request%20for%20Extension%20REAE%20%282022-08-26%29.pdf>

To view Transco's application, please visit the PADEP's Pennsylvania Pipeline Portal:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/ProgramIntegration/Pennsylvania-Pipeline-Portal/pages/default.aspx>

*Delaware Riverkeeper Network is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and New York. Delaware Riverkeeper Network provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws. To learn more about our work, please visit: [www.delawariverkeeper.org](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org)*

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