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PennEast Attempts to Secretly Trash Talk Pipeline Opponents; Community Responds

New Jersey - Pennsylvania: July 23, at 10:14 am PennEast sent out a mass email to an unknown set of recipients seeking to defend its polluting drilling operations of July 20 & 21, to misrepresent the facts, and to seek to ridicule its opposition. The email, received and released by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, uses scathing rhetoric to go on the attack in a behind the scenes email apparently sent to municipal officials in multiple parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The full text of the email can be found below. Environmental and community leaders from up and down the length of the proposed pipeline route challenged the text of the email as inappropriate and untrue.

“Alisa Harris and the executives of PennEast must be desperate to be so blatant in their mischaracterizations of this week’s drilling activities and their attacks on the integrity of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and others involved. Even the untrained eyes of Alisa and PennEast executives could see the pollution pouring off of their drilling site and into the natural spring fed pond if they bothered to watch the video. The facts and photos are clear regarding the drilling, the environmental degradation and the misuse of water from the pond; we don’t need to defend it, we

have it all on tape. And the admissions that day to those of onsite, as well as photo evidence informed by expert review further undermine PennEast's assertion that it didn't plan to drill deeper than 50 feet before it came on site that day. You know the old saying, if you can't shoot the message then shoot the messenger," says **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper**, with a smile.

"PennEast's message to the community is one of threats, intimidation, misrepresentations and harm; trying to redirect the conversation by attacking others can't change that. And their after-the-fact assertion that they didn't get the needed drilling permit because they hadn't intended to drill deeper than the first 50 feet, I believe there is plenty on the record to belie that claim, but even if you believe PennEast about that point, there is no doubt they were polluting, taking water from the pond, and created fractures that were a problem for them; the video is clear, they inflicted harm and to suggest otherwise is downright silly" van Rossum adds.

"As a landowner, I have been lied to by Ms. Harris of Penneast since late last Summer. Now Ms Harris is going to clarify 'completely inaccurate portrayals' of Penneast and she thinks I should believe her. I don't think so," said **Holland Township resident Robert Rader** in response to reading the email. "I was on site that day Ms. Harris refers to in her email, I know the truth, and it is not coming from her."

"Patricia Kornick's statements in the press denying the crew's use of water from the pond are patently false," said **Lorraine Crown, a Holland township resident who was on the scene**. "On Tuesday, July 21, the day of the incident, I had two conversations with the geologist from Hatch Mott McDonald about the pond; the first, when I told him that I understood they were discharging into the pond, and he said they were not, but rather discharging into the ground. In a follow-up conversation a short time later, I asked him what the water source was for the hoses. He told me it was from the pond. I then asked him why he had denied the involvement of the pond during my earlier questioning, and he replied that I had only asked about discharge. It was at this point that John Coughlin from Western Land Services physically placed himself between me and the geologist so that I could no longer speak to him. I have provided these accounts as part of the Delaware Riverkeeper Report submitted to the NJDEP and FERC. It appears that by Wednesday, the day after this incident and while they were working under the supervision of NJDEP staff on site, the crew was in fact using water from a water truck for their operations."

"Just days after the Christie Administration criticizes PennEast, they join PennEast in bending over backwards to cover-up environmental crimes. And now we have PennEast characterizing the video of their own illegal actions as being untrue? Alisa Harris needs to get glasses and the Christie

Administration needs to firmly stand with the people they are supposed to represent. PennEast is dirty business – it is not a surprise that they are once again out there slinging their mud," said **Dave Pringle, NJ Campaign Director for Clean Water Action.**

"State agencies like the NJ DEP should be grateful to vigilant citizens and experienced environmental advocates who report unpermitted, polluting activities like those being conducted on behalf of PennEast on July 21st. The fact that the NJ DEP chose instead to issue the violators an after-the-fact permit and then publicly defend them shows just how compromised our regulators have become and explains the absolute erosion of the public's faith in those whose jobs are to protect our natural resources. Now that PennEast has made this deliberate attempt to mislead, NJDEP has an obligation to pull the permit they should never have granted," said **Karen Feridun, Founder, Berks Gas Truth.**

"To the untrained eye, what PennEast is saying is spin. To people that know more about this pipeline, they know that what PennEast is saying is all lies. Even the NJDEP isn't falling for this misinformation anymore even as they do PennEast's dirty work. Testing alone has caused serious harm to the land and the environment, so think of how much of a disaster a pipeline would be for the area. The PennEast Pipeline will do horrendous damage to the Delaware River Valley. It will have devastating environmental impacts, cutting a scar through environmentally sensitive land and open spaces," said **Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.** "All PennEast is good at is trying to cover up the facts that this pipeline is unnecessary and will promote fracking. It will not only not save people money, but what they don't want you to know is that the gas will end up being exported. All PennEast knows how to do is threaten and bully property owners to try to get on their land, because they know no one wants this pipeline in our beautiful valley. If Alisa Harris was Pinocchio her nose would be in San Diego by now."

"PennEast's claim that they are building this pipeline to bring gas to communities in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York is laughable. First, New York is a new addition to their claim, up until now they were only pretending to bring gas to Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Second, the facts are clear, and the expert reports filed with FERC are clear, neither Pennsylvania nor New Jersey need gas from PennEast. We know this gas is really intended for sale in foreign markets so the company can make money off of the backs of Pennsylvania and New Jersey communities that have to suffer the danger, harms, and degradation that this pipeline and its fracked gas will bring," said **Doug O'Malley, Executive Director of Environment New Jersey.**

"Regardless of Ms. Harris' attempt to dispel the seriousness of NJ DEP's letter to FERC, the

public is aware that the conclusions we've come to are not 'misinformation.' DEP's attention brought them to the conclusion that they will not be issuing needed permits to PennEast at this time due to the lack of surveying permission. The chances of landowner permissions increasing are slim after Delaware Riverkeeper Network and volunteers documented the pollution and mess created by surveyors in Holland, NJ. Further, the DEP 'strongly encourages' PennEast to apply for a Letter of Interpretation at least *one year* prior to submitting a Land Use permit application. This tells us that it's going to be very difficult for PennEast to continue with their project and file a formal application with FERC on schedule," said **Laura Pritchard with Williams Township Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline.**

"An email from Alisa Harris of Penn East, was sent to undisclosed recipients and copied to me through social media. It is obvious that Penn East is responding to our outrage by disseminating their distorted view of things. In the email, they state they have conducted project briefings. There is no mention of these briefings being exclusively private, where they offered excess 'budgeted moneys' to the towns in NJ that their pipeline would affect. Alisa's update is a thinly veiled threat to landowners who have denied survey permission," said **Nancy Wilson a Holland Township, New Jersey Resident** concerned about PennEast.

"PennEast's recent failure to obtain permission from all of the property owners of record at Baldpate Mountain in Mercer County before conducting testing is a serious violation of property rights and the public trust, and completely unacceptable" said **Michele S. Byers, Executive Director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation.**

"PennEast's high handed, threatening and condescending comments in its email to community leaders perfectly illustrates how PE deliberately distorts facts. 'To the untrained eye of those who are not geotechnical boring specialists' and especially to those who are, it stands to reason that permits for testing in Holland Township should have been applied for BEFORE work was begun, not after PennEast was found deficient and non-compliant. PennEast continues to mislead the public on the true purpose of this proposed pipeline, and now has the gall to blatantly disregard regulations and malign all those who are working tirelessly to protect land owners and the environment against this self-serving and unnecessary project," said **Susan Meacham, Holland Township resident.**

"PennEast's email to community leaders and residents includes an obvious threat – let us survey your property or become the target of our pipeline," says **Delaware Riverkeeper van Rossum.** "They are suggesting that people who have agreed to surveys have had a say in where the pipeline will go, and so if folks want to be saved from this devastating threat to their home and

community they should play ball. This is a wholly inappropriate and untrue scare tactic that needs to be outed; it is also a blatant threat of retribution to those that continue to deny surveys. PennEast is already a threat to all of us, and now they have the nerve to come in and try to threaten us even more? Shame on PennEast, Shame on PSEG, Shame on Elizabethtown Gas, Shame on UGI, Shame on them all.”

PennEast email provided in full below.

Video of the events can be found at: <http://bit.ly/DRN-PennEastUnpermittedDrilling>

A copy of a report on the events of the day that was filed with appropriate officials can be found at: <http://bit.ly/DRN-PennEastUnpermittedDrillingReport>

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Email reads:

From: Alisa Harris [<mailto:aharris@ugies.com>] **Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2015 10:14 AM **To:** Alisa Harris <aharris@ugies.com> **Cc:** Scott Staruch <sstaruch@quantumcomms.com>; Larry Godlasky <lgodlasky@ugies.com>; Kim M <kmaiolo@quantumcomms.com>; Marco Calderon <mcalderon@ugies.com>; Kevin Kelleher <kkelleher@ugies.com>; Patricia Kornick <pat.kornick@nrg-llc.com>; Jackie Nawa <jnawa@ugies.com> **Subject:** PennEast Pipeline Company Update **Importance:** High

Good morning,

We want to provide you with an update on the PennEast Pipeline Project. Since our last email, we have hosted 13 sessions for landowners within the 400-foot corridor; met with several federal, state and local agencies and conducted project briefings for municipal employees and officials along the proposed route. Our project team and consultants also are beginning to conduct various studies and surveys on the approximately 400 parcels along the route for which we have received survey permission, which represents approximately 60 percent of the entire route.

PennEast began the FERC pre-file process and environmental surveys late last summer and early fall. The purpose of surveys is to gather relevant facts to aid in pipeline routing and construction planning. We identify wetlands and streams; cultural and historical resources; property-specific potential conflicts; and in selected areas, collect sub-surface data to identify areas of special concern.

This data and analysis has led PennEast to make additional adjustments to the previous proposed route, many in response to meetings with landowners who have granted survey access. After nearly one year, the survey process continues to progress and PennEast still intends to file its route and formal application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) third quarter of this year.

All landowners will have the ability to use the interactive map on the PennEast website to determine the proximity of the filed route to their property. By the end of July, PennEast also expects to send letters to newly added landowners and those whose properties no longer are involved within the 400-foot corridor.

Since we began the process in August, PennEast has been committed to an open line of communication regarding milestones and developments. Occasionally, that involves correcting misinformation.

The first example relates to the characterizations of a letter the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) submitted to FERC and PennEast. The New Jersey DEP has been engaged in the pre-filing process, and on July 2, submitted to the FERC its comments to PennEast's draft resource reports.

The comments were submitted for consideration by PennEast and FERC, as FERC is the agency ultimately charged with approval of the project. The NJ DEP letter highlights the level of attention the NJDEP has invested in the project and it will prove very helpful to PennEast as we proceed.

The letter highlights the importance of completing environmental surveys. PennEast agrees about the importance of the surveys and will complete the necessary environmental reviews before construction begins.

As we have shared often, the survey process provides landowners the best opportunity to provide input into the preferred route before PennEast submits an application to FERC. PennEast expects to submit the formal application in the third quarter this year. Once PennEast submits the preferred route to FERC, there will be limited opportunities to accommodate landowner preferences regarding the route. Whether through discussions, one-on-one meetings or on-the-ground surveys, landowner input is important to us in helping to define the route. .

The PennEast Partners and shippers remain committed to bringing new and competitive natural gas to consumers we serve in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, to enhance their vital role in the environmental and economic health of the region. As part of this process, we will continue to have discussions and respond to requests from landowners and communities involved with the pipeline route, and we will continue to provide them with updates as the project progresses.

The second example requiring clarification involves the completely inaccurate portrayal created by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) regarding a geotechnical survey in Holland Township. PennEast is conducting critical survey work, including geotechnical borings, but only with applicable permits and permissions. These surveys are important to ensuring that PennEast has an accurate picture of the underlying geology before it completes its design of the project.

To the untrained eye of those who are not geotechnical boring specialists, PennEast can appreciate the lack of knowledge the DRN has about the process. There was no pollution from any of the activities conducted by PennEast. In fact, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection (USEPA) agency visited the site and found PennEast's activities to be fully compliant with regulations and the approved permit.

The misinformation that continues to be shared by the DRN and others opposed to the Project demonstrates to PennEast the increased need to educate those outside the industry on the best practices involved with responsibly building natural gas infrastructure, as well as the importance of where the public gathers its information. If you have questions regarding the PennEast Pipeline Project, please call the Project toll-free line at (844) 347-7119; visit PennEastPipeline.com or send an e-mail to answers@penneastpipeline.com.

Best regards,

Alisa E. Harris
Government and Community Affairs
PennEast Pipeline Company