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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

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More than 400 March Against the PennEast Pipeline

Bucks County, PA – More than 400 people marched across the Delaware River to show their opposition to the proposed PennEast Pipeline, a project that has faced unprecedented resistance from community groups and landowners in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The words Stop PennEast painted on an enormous banner summed up the sentiments of the protestors.

The collective call of participants was simple, that the companies behind PennEast (UGI, AGL, NJ Pipeline, Spectra, PSEG, and NJI) should drop the project entirely as it is not in the public interest and because the vast majority of impacted residents and communities are opposed to the project.

The mile-long march began at Veteran's Park in Upper Black Eddy, Pennsylvania with a Lenni Lenape *Prayer to the River* and ended with a rally at Milford Borough Park in New Jersey. Rally speakers included Michael J. Brogan, Ph.D., Associate Professor & Department Chair, Political Science, Rider University, Susan Dodd Meacham, Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline, Holland Township, Kaia Elinich, Bucks County Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline & PEACE Youth, Karen Feridun, Founder, Berks Gas Truth, Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Jeff Tittel, Director, NJ Sierra Club. Graffiti artists painted mural with the words Stop PennEast as a drum circle performed.

“The children have a right to clean water and clean air, because when you leave us with a poisoned environment, we will be the ones cleaning up the mess. From fracked lands to

global warming, we will not be able to turn back if we keep moving forward with climate change,” said **Kaia Elinich, who, at age 10, was the youngest rally speaker and is a member of Bucks Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline.**

Since UGI Utilities, PSE&G and other project sponsors announced a year ago, two thirds of potentially impacted townships have passed resolutions opposing the project, and thousands have come out publicly against the project.

“Our ask is clear. The jig is up. UGI, stop trying to ram through this horrific project down the public’s throat,” said **Sam Koplinka-Loehr, Shale Gas Organizer with Clean Air Council.** “The people have spoken loud and clear, No PennEast!”

“Community opposition to the the PennEast pipeline proposal is well-informed, based on facts and law, and is growing day by day,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.** “The message of the day is focused equally on government officials as well as PennEast. It is the government’s job to protect us; it is not enough that FERC is providing a little more time for comments, they need to be protecting our communities and environment from the unnecessary harms of another unnecessary pipeline,” **van Rossum** added.

“I marched to protest the corruption and injustice at the heart of this and other gas and oil pipelines crisscrossing the U.S. (and the world). FERC is bowing to the money and power of corporations and turning a blind eye to the health and safety of the planet,” said **Laura Mirsky of Holland Township, NJ, Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline.**

“FERC & PennEast need to take into account the fact that people have had it with the corruption in big business & our government. We're not going to roll over & allow them to destroy what we have worked so hard to achieve. Our properties are precious to us; we have spent our money & time putting in solar systems & building energy efficient homes. We hold ourselves personally accountable for what we do to the earth - it's time for renewables to take over from the polluting fossil fuels. PennEast needs to give up because we will not stand down,” said **Carla Kelly Mackey of Delaware Township Citizens Against the Pipeline.**

For participants, the fight against the PennEast isn’t just about stopping a pipeline; it’s about preserving communities and natural resources and about paving the way to a sustainable future.

Jeff Tittel, Director of the NJ Sierra Club said, “We came together to join hands across the river to stop this pipeline. PennEast pipeline is a threat to the Delaware Valley and our homes. It will have devastating environmental impacts, cutting a scar through

environmentally sensitive land and open spaces. This pipeline will promote fracking, cause air and water pollution, and is a danger to our communities. This pipeline needs to be stopped and we can do that by coming together and telling PennEast we don't want them on our land or in our valley. We will fight this pipeline whether it's at the local, state, or federal level. We're standing together to say 'Keep the FERC out of our valley!'

"This pipeline is a danger to our communities and our very quality of life. The risks of expanding such gas infrastructure clearly outweigh any potential benefits and would undoubtedly suffer a negative impact on the health and welfare of generations to come," said **Arianne Elinich of Bucks Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline**.

"For every person marching today, there is a Pennsylvanian in the shale fields who no longer has clean water to drink or whose property has lost its value or who has gotten sick. In fact, there are dozens per marcher, if not hundreds. This fight is about much more than stopping a pipeline. It's about preserving the health, safety, quality of life, and precious natural resources of people from Washington County, Pennsylvania, to Mercer County, New Jersey. We are all in this together," said **Karen Feridun, Founder of Berks Gas Truth**.

Laura Pritchard of Williams Township Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline said, "We have been told in Williams Township, PA, that FERC is on top of the PennEast pipeline and will keep it from harming anyone. FERC can't even keep their own comment system working on the internet...many people have been unable to reach the docket numerous times. That is all time that we have lost being able to voice concerns."

"The best way to stop the PennEast pipeline is through unified public opposition. Today's event shows that communities on both sides of the Delaware River are united to stop this pipeline. PennEast makes specious claims on the demand for fossil fuel energy, while keeping their options open for exporting the gas. New Jersey doesn't need more natural gas — we need stronger energy efficiency standards and true investments in clean energy to power our economy. PennEast is peddling a false promise, and today's march is about a show of public force against this gas invasion," said **Doug O'Malley, Environment New Jersey Director**.

"We need good jobs and fewer people in harm's way (less disease, less natural disasters). That's why we're mobilizing, and we won't stop until PennEast and all other new, dirty, dangerous pipelines are forever dead AND clean renewables rule the day!" said **David Pringle, NJ Campaign Director for Clean Water Action**.

Caroline Katmann, Executive Director of the Sourland Conservancy said "This March and Rally shows the strength and unity of our opposition to the proposed PennEast

pipeline. We come from all walks of life throughout the affected regions (and beyond) in PA and NJ but are united in our conviction that this pipeline project is bad for our environment, bad for our economy and bad for our health and safety. We want to send a message to FERC, PennEast and its affiliates, and our local and state officials: we will continue our smart and strong opposition until PennEast's application is denied!"

In anticipation of the march, Bill McKibben, the well-known climate activist and writer from 350.org, spoke out publicly via video on social media encouraging residents to join the march and stop this horrific project because of the implications that the project would have for climate change.

More details, photos, and footage of today's march will be available on stoppenneast.org as they become available.

An album of photos from today's march is available at bit.ly/PEMarchPix.

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