

January 15, 2015

Honorable Cheryl A. LaFleur, Chair
and
Mr. Leonard Tao, Director
Office of External Affairs



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Ms. LaFleur and Mr Tao;

I write on behalf of the members of the Stony Brook Garden Club of Princeton, NJ, a member of the Garden Club of America. We are strongly opposed to the construction of the Penn East pipeline. Construction of the pipeline in the proposed path will

- Destroy precious, contiguous preserved open space,
- Harm wildlife, wetlands, woodlands and farmlands
- Adversely affect waterways and watersheds
- Pose significant threats to the health and wellbeing of the people in the area who are reliant on the water and clean air of the region.


In addition, the proposed path runs through many ecologically sensitive areas including the Sourland Mountain region. It will violate land that has been preserved using US taxpayer dollars through Green Acres funding. The resulting fragmentation of the woodland and meadow areas will result in loss of habitat for native plants and animal species. Most devastatingly, the pipeline crosses at least 18 Category 1 Stream corridors, safeguarded by the Clean Water Act.

As members of the Garden Club of America we have pledged to

- Promote conservation stewardship,
- Work to protect endangered species, to promote biodiversity and to conserve natural resources,
- Encourage the responsible use of our public lands for the benefit of all citizens, and
- Work to reduce industrial, municipal and household waste and advocate the prevention of pollution of soil, air and water.

It is with this pledge in mind that we **vigorously oppose the construction of the Penn East pipeline along the proposed corridor**, which will leave a permanent defacing scar on our most precious natural resource: pristine, preserved, pastoral land. Our resolution is attached.

Sincerely,


Linda Gecha,
President

As passed in resolution by the 74 members of
Stony Brook Garden Club, Princeton, NJ

Cc: Governor Chris Christie, Senators Menendez and Booker, Representative Bonnie-Watson Coleman, NJ Senator Shirley Turner, NJ Assemblyman Reed Gusciora



Stony Brook Garden Club
Founded 1939
Member of the Garden Club of America

PennEast Pipeline Resolution

WHEREAS, PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC, a joint project of AGL Resources, NJR Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of New Jersey Resources, South Jersey Industries, and UGI Energy Services, a subsidiary of UGI Corporation, proposed the construction of a new pipeline for the transfer and delivery of natural gas generated by deep well "fracking" in areas of Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline is approximately one hundred and eight (108) miles long of thirty-six (36") buried pipe crossing parts of Luzern, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania and Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline will cut through over 100 acres of forest, farmland, wetlands and cross numerous streams and tributaries including Jacobs Creek, Alexauken Creek, Woodsville Brook, Baldwins Creek and Peters Brook; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline will cut a swath through the Sourland Mountain region which is recognized for its "unique ecology" in a 2005 State-funded comprehensive environmental report, which recommended "Special Resource Area" identification in the State Development and Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline will significantly impact the Sourland Mountain region, fragmenting what the abovementioned report calls an "island of biodiversity", causing or contributing to the following

1. Negative impacts to the fragile ecological balance in the critical forest, wetland, and grassland habitats of the Sourland region causing damage to native plants and animals and the habitats that sustain them; and
2. Removal of trees and vegetation along creeks, streams, and waterways, which will result in erosion, and loss of sediment filtration, thereby causing increased runoff and pollution, sediment buildup in and destabilization of these waterways; and
3. Destruction of natural vegetative cover and soils, resulting in reduction of infiltration of precipitation and recharge of groundwater that is essential to sustain drinking water wells in the Sourland Mountain region and healthy flow of Sourland streams; and

4. Fragmented forest resulting in increased prime habitat for white-tailed deer, in a region already extremely overpopulated with white-tailed deer. Deer overpopulation is a direct cause of damage to agricultural crops, increased invasive plant species presence, decreased tree regeneration and decreased plant and animal biodiversity.

5. Crossing of properties that were purchased with New Jersey Open Space Preservation Funds, as well as other properties that are subject to conservation easements and/or deed restricted against development; and

6. Crossing of properties that were purchased by non-profit land conservation and protection organizations including the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the D&R Greenway, the Hunterdon Land Trust, the taxpayers of the State of New Jersey, Mercer County, Hunterdon County as well as foundations and individual donors, farmers and landowners who have invested millions of dollars to permanently preserve these properties in perpetuity; and

7. Crossing watershed lands in the Sourland Mountain region that are located within the Delaware River Watershed, a major water supply for at least 2.9 million people in New Jersey.

8. Invasion and destruction of habitats of threatened species, endangered species and species of special concern.

9. Disruption of nesting areas and increasing the vulnerability of neo-tropical birds that use the Sourland Mountains as the northern terminus of their migration path from Central America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Stony Brook Garden Club of Princeton, NJ as follows:

1. The members of the Stony Brook Garden Club do hereby object to the design and construction of the pipeline passing through and under the Sourland Mountain region. The construction and operation of the pipeline will significantly damage streams, wildlife habitat, existing farm operations and the overall quality of life in the region.

2. The Stony Brook Garden Club calls for a moratorium on any and all planning for the PennEast Pipeline and request that any such project, if approved, be removed from the reaches of the Sourland Mountain region.

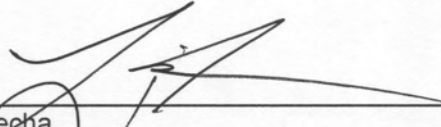
3. The Stony Brook Garden Club requests that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be required as part of the review of the proposed PennEast Pipeline.

4. The Stony Brook Garden Club seeks the cooperation of other garden clubs and organizations working to conserve our natural resources and promote biodiversity, hereby asking that nearby garden clubs and such organizations adopt similar resolutions.

5. The Stony Brook Garden Club requests the Delaware River Basin Commission, as the agency that manages the water resources of the Delaware River Watershed, to exercise full jurisdiction over the PennEast Pipeline project that passes through the boundaries of the Delaware River Watershed.

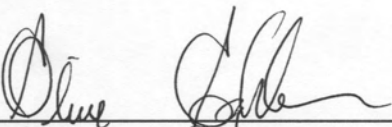
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution will be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, U.S. Senator Cory Booker, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, NJ Senator Shirley K. Turner, and NJ Assemblyman Reed Gusciora.

ATTEST:



Linda Gecha
President, Stony Brook Garden Club
(2013-2015)

Date: 1/12/2015



Olive Coghlan
Vice President, Stony Brook Garden Club

Date: 1/13/2015