



West Amwell Township
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RESOLUTION #155-2014

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, proposed the construction of a new virgin pipeline for the transfer and deliverance of natural gas from areas of Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline is approximately one hundred (100) miles long of thirty to thirty six inch (30-36") diameter buried pipe crossing parts of Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania and Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, as currently proposed, the pipeline cuts through West Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, causing or contributing to the following:

1. The proposed route of the buried pipeline goes directly through the Sourland Mountain region. This 90 square-mile region is characterized by a fragile ecological balance and is the largest contiguous forest in Central New Jersey. The Sourland Mountain region's biological diversity, critical forest, wetland and grassland habitats is seriously threatened by the proposed PennEast pipeline; and
2. This fragmentation of the Sourland forest will result 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 automobile accidents and increased cases of Lyme's disease; and
3. The proposed route of the buried pipeline route crosses the Alexauken Creek, a C-1 stream, and its tributaries, at least four times and crosses Peter's Brook, a tributary of a C-1 stream. C-1 streams are defined as waters protected by the State from any measurable changes in water quality because of their exceptional ecological function, habitat value, water supply significance and unique geology; and
4. Removal of trees and vegetation along creeks, streams and waterways will result in the loss of sediment filtration, thereby causing sediment buildup in these waterways and the waterways that flow into the Delaware and Raritan Canal, a source of drinking water for millions of New Jersey residents; and
5. The proposed route crosses properties that were purchased with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Funds, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Funds, Hunterdon County Open Space Funds, West Amwell Township Open Space Funds, as well as other properties that are subject to conservation easements and/or deed restrictions against development; and
6. The taxpayers of the State of New Jersey, Hunterdon County, West Amwell Township as well as foundations and individual donors and landowners have invested an estimated 40 million dollars to permanently preserve our farmland and woodlands in perpetuity; and

7. The proposed pipeline route is in direct opposition to the West Amwell Township Master Plan which provides for the preservation, conservation and utilization of natural resources, including open space, water supply, forests, soil, marshes, wetlands, rivers, and other waters, fisheries, endangered and threatened species wildlife and other resources.
8. The proposed route crosses the Mount Airy Historical District which has New Jersey and Federal Historic Designation: it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and
9. The construction of the pipeline through the rock formations of West Amwell could cause serious damage to the well and septic systems throughout the township; and
10. The proposed route of the pipeline may invade habitats of threatened and endangered species protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act, such as the bald eagle, the wood turtle, the long tailed salamander, the Indiana bat, the American Kestrel, and various plants and other animals protected by federal and state law; and
11. The construction of the pipeline will have a significant impact on private landowner's property with the pipeline needing a 50-100 foot permanent right of way and an additional unspecified amount of footage during the construction process, possibly hundreds of feet; and
12. The proposed pipeline causes damage to West Amwell Township residents by lowering property values, raising health concerns, raising safety concerns, impacting farms and residences, and generally degrading their quality of life and the historic, environmental and cultural resources they have dedicated themselves to protecting.

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline through West Amwell will not provide energy to the Township or Hunterdon County residents and does not supply natural gas to this area and possibly not the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS if an amicable agreement cannot be reached, PennEast may have the ability to seek to take private property through eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, since the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is now hearing comments on the proposed PennEast pipeline proposed route through West Amwell Township, it is appropriate for West Amwell to take action to protect citizen's property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey as follows:

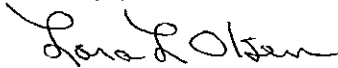
1. The West Amwell Township Committee does hereby object to the design and construction of a 30-36 inch pipeline passing through and under West Amwell Township Hunterdon County. The construction and operation of the pipeline will significantly damage C-1 protected streams, the Sourland ridge and region, wildlife habitat, existing farm operations, and the quality of life in West Amwell Township.
2. The West Amwell Township Committee calls for a moratorium on any and all planning for the PennEast Pipeline and requests that any such project, if approved, be removed from the reaches of Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey and Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania
3. The West Amwell Township Committee is cooperating with other similarly located and affected municipalities, asking that all nearby affected municipalities adopt a similar resolution.

4. The West Amwell Township Committee adopts, and calls upon similarly situated municipalities to adopt a resolution authorizing each municipality to join together to enter their appearance in any proceeding before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the Delaware River Basin Commission, the New Jersey Public Utility Commission, and any other regulatory authority, so that by the strength of numbers they may successfully oppose the PennEast Pipeline project and have the ability to cause the termination of the project so as to prevent environmental degradation and to protect the environment envisioned by the State of New Jersey.
5. The West Amwell Township Committee and its appointees will act as an Intervener and/or Objector to the proposed PennEast Pipeline.

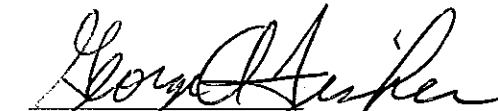
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee authorizes the administration to participate and intervene in the regulatory process as necessary to protect the interests of the Township and its residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, President Barack Obama, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, U.S. Senator Cory Booker, Congressman Rush Holt, Senator Shirley K. Turner, Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, affected municipalities in Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

ATTEST:



Lora L. Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk


George A. Fisher, Mayor

October 22, 2014

I hereby certify the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee at their regular meeting held October 22, 2014



Lora L. Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk