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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

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New Jersey DEP Confirms Community Opposition to PennEast Pipeline Surveying is Having Impact

Over two-thirds of landowners along proposed PennEast Pipeline route in New Jersey are still denying survey permission for the project, with no plans of letting up anytime soon

In a [submission](#) earlier this month to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection confirmed that PennEast should complete all surveys along the proposed project before filing for state permits or with FERC for the PennEast Pipeline.

The comment was met with widespread agreement from pipeline opponents and residents who have been fighting the project for the past year with great success.

"There continues to be unprecedented levels of denying survey permission for this pipeline, and residents are staying strong," said **Sam Koplinka-Loehr, Shale Gas Organizer with Clean Air Council**. "The Department's submittal merely confirms that our agencies are finally catching on to the fact that if landowners keep denying surveys and keep up the fight, this project won't go through."

"Affected landowners have made their opposition to the PennEast pipeline clear in their refusal to allow surveying of their properties, even when the company has employed strong-arm tactics to convince them to agree. That's not going to change," said **Karen Feridun, Founder of Berks Gas Truth**.

"Pipeline companies and even FERC employees seem to relish telling the public that once a pipeline is proposed its approval and construction are inevitable and there is nothing the public, the states or the impacted towns can do about it; but that is simply not true. While the

law may be heavily weighted in favor of the pipeline companies it should never be doubted that the public and public officials do have a say, and can have an affect when they take a stand,” **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.** “What needs to happen now is that our state and federal legislators need to join the chorus and change the law so that protection of the public and our environment are given true priority status in pipeline decision making as opposed to pipeline profits,” **van Rossum added.**

“This is a victory in our ongoing the battle to stop the PennEast Pipeline. DEP cannot even deem PennEast’s applications for permits complete because PennEast hasn’t given them enough information. Without a complete application, DEP cannot issue their permits. The reason this is happening is because 65 percent of people have not let PennEast on their land. DEP is not on our side, they have never met a pipeline they didn’t like. DEP cannot move forward with the PennEast application because people have not allowed them to survey their property. This letter from DEP is a major roadblock for PennEast,”said **Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.** “This pipeline will cut a scar through our valley and threaten environmentally sensitive land. PennEast has been to trying to push this project through by strong arming and bullying landowners, but so far they have failed. The only way to prevent them from getting permits is to not allow them on our land. By sticking together, not letting them on your property, and not supporting an alternative route, that’s how we can stop this pipeline.”

“I am in awe of the brave landowners who continue to deny survey permission,” said **Caroline Katmann, Executive Director of the Sourland Conservancy.** “They are the real heroes of this opposition right now! PennEast and the FERC must realize what NJDEP is beginning to come to grips with: this strong and united opposition will continue - we will not allow the ravaging of our land and water by this unnecessary, uneconomical and unsafe project!”

“PennEast and the FERC have continuously told residents and taxpayers that our decisions to preserve land and to protect our waters are meaningless compared to the desires of the natural gas industry, and have insisted that this unnecessary and destructive project is a foregone conclusion. Never underestimate the will and the power of the individual and collective citizenry to insist instead on justice, which our landowners have proven by denying the necessary survey permissions for PennEast to proceed. Our coalition is stronger than ever,” said **Lorraine Crown, Holland resident and founding member of Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline.**

“Landowners have fought a tremendous battle of wills against PennEast for months now. They trusted the advice of activists who said that PennEast could be defeated if enough people banded together and refused the company survey access to their land. They entered into a

high stakes situation where landowners are putting their homes, their property, and their lives in the hands of strangers. With this report from the NJDEP, the landowners who have stood firm with us are beginning to see their faith justified. We call on the FERC to recognize this as a clear signal that this pipeline is not viable and that the "NO BUILD" option is the only rational choice", said **Mike Spille, founder West Amwell Citizens Against the Pipeline**

"Finally, a state DEP listing changes needed in this process created by the Natural Gas Act of 1938; when pipelines actually functioned as domestic suppliers!" **said Lynda Farrell, Executive Director of Pipeline Safety Coalition.** "77 years later, these savvy citizens learned about their rights - and the flaws of the system - demanding "enough is enough" by refusing surveys. They are inspiring. Here in PA, we look to our PA DEP to take up that gauntlet, requiring state permits in hand prior to this or any operator applying to FERC. The NJ DEP filing looks like New Jersey is taking the lead in upholding Pennsylvania's Constitution, PA Article 1, Section 27: "The people have the right to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment (and that) Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people." We applaud this landowner resolve and NJ DEP doing the right thing."

"Residents along the proposed pipeline continue to stand strong and united against PennEast and will continue to hold the line" said **Patty Cronheim, founder Hopewell Township Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline.** "PennEast is failing to gain ground in our communities as we work together to put a big stop sign on this destructive, unwanted project."

"This sends a strong a message to the feds and the fossil fuel industry. Local opposition to this dirty, dangerous pipeline is so strong that even the Christie Administration is listening. Now it's their turn. It's time to stop investing in failing 20th century technology and turn to innovative 21st century ones like clean renewables and the jobs that will come along with them," said **David Pringle, NJ Campaign Director of Clean Water Action.**

"This is a grassroots revolution against PennEast," **said Doug O'Malley, director of Environment New Jersey.** "The heroes of this pipeline battle are landowners who have stood up to PennEast's bullying tactics. This throws a wrench in DEP's rubberstamping of the PennEast proposal, and will help expose this pipeline as a fossil fuel mistake. We need our state and federal legislators to listen to the public and change the law so we can account for the true environmental cost of pipelines."

