

Friday August 21, 2015

\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*

**Contacts:**

Karen Feridun, Berks Gas Truth, 610-678-7726

Arianne Elinich, Bucks Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline, 484-357-7474

Sam Koplinka-Loehr, Clean Air Council, 607-592-7650

Patty Cronheim, Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline, 609-558-2564

Maya van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215-369-1188 ext 102 (rings office & Cell)

Doug O'Malley, Environment New Jersey, 917-449-6812

Laura Mirsky, Holland Township, NJ, Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline, 267-718-7374

Jeff Tittel, New Jersey Sierra Club, 609-558-9100

Caroline Katmann, Sourland Conservancy, 908-334-0551

Mike Spille, West Amwell Citizens Against the Pipeline, 917-921-3502

**Hundreds March Against The PennEast Pipeline --  
FERC Begins New Review Period for Route Changes**

*Bucks County, PA* -- This weekend, hundreds of people are taking to the streets in opposition to the proposed PennEast Pipeline, a project that has faced unprecedented resistance from community groups and landowners in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Since UGI Utilities, PSE&G and other project sponsors announced the project last year, two thirds of potentially impacted townships have passed resolutions opposing the project, and thousands have come out publicly against the project.

Saturday's march, organized by citizens groups from impacted communities throughout the region, will start at noon from Veteran's Park in Upper Black Eddy, PA. The collective call of participants is 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.

"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’m marching 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.**

The March Across the River to Stop PennEast coincides with a recent route change, which means that a whole new contingent of residents would be impacted by the project. FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, announced that it would hold a special scoping period this month to allow for additional input for these newly impacted landowners. This new scoping period will end on September 18th, exactly the same time that UGI and PennEast have said they are hoping to file their official application with FERC, allowing no time for public comments submitted to be addressed. New hearings to allow time for direct testimony to FERC are not currently being scheduled.

“The FERC has become a focal point of a broken system in the interstate gas pipeline review and approval process,” said **Lynda Farrell, Executive Director of Pipeline Safety Coalition.** “What’s the rush? Announcement of a new route should kick off an appropriately stringent review of the new route. Newly impacted landowners need more than one month to adequately assess long-term impacts such as the permanent changes that will be made to their deeds and potential property devaluation that come with pipeline Rights of Ways. FERC and permitting agencies need more than one month to conduct a responsible review of new plans. This isn’t the first time PennEast has talked about re-routing; had any of those plans been rushed through without due diligence, the harms being avoided with this new route would have been irreparable.”

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're coming 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!'"

**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."

"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**.

"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!”

The March tomorrow will include numerous speakers and landowners, as well as community and environmental leaders that have been working to stop the project. Bill McKibben, the well-known climate activist and writer from 350.org, has spoken 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. There will also be activities for young people at the march, as well as artwork from local graffiti artists and a gigantic banner with the words “Stop PennEast!” that will be visible for an aerial photoshoot from a plane flyover. All members of the public are encouraged to attend and join the March. More specific information can be found at [www.stoppenneast.org](http://www.stoppenneast.org).

###