

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 15-003**

**COUNTY OF CARBON, PENNSYLVANIA**

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED PENNEAST NATURAL GAS PIPELINE AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO ACT AS AN INTERVENER AND TAKE SUCH ADDITIONAL ACTION IN THE COURSE OF THE REGULATORY PROCESS TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY AND ITS RESIDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC (hereinafter “PennEast”) plans to construct a 108 mile, 36 inch diameter pipeline from Dallas, Pennsylvania to Hopewell Township, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed pipeline is planned to transport 1,000,000,000 CF of natural gas per day at a pressure of 1,500 PSI from the gas fields of Northern Pennsylvania to its planned terminus; and

**WHEREAS**, PennEast has requested that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) initiate an environmental review of the proposed project with the intention to file a formal application with FERC on or before July, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the currently proposed Pipeline Project will cross the Lehigh River, several creeks, State Parks, State Game Lands, State Forest, housing developments and land reserved for agricultural use, all within Carbon County; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will require a fifty foot-wide permanent clear-cut construction right-of-way within a one hundred foot-wide temporary right of way which will enter the northern boundary of Kidder Township through a major designated natural area, Francis E. Walter Dam, and pass through Carbon County transiting many more designated natural areas before exiting Carbon County at its border in Lower Towamensing Township with Northampton County; and

**WHEREAS**, such a massive removal of vegetation and disturbance of soils within Carbon County will result to the detriment of underground water supplies and to the detriment of our residents who rely on pure and abundant well water and have no access to treated municipal water; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed pipeline project is expected to cause damage to Carbon County residents by lowering property values, raising health concerns, negatively impacting the environment and creating economic loss to the area because of said issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed pipeline route will displace many Carbon County residents from their homes and will make less habitable the homes of many more all of which will be accomplished by the implementation of eminent domain confiscation of their real property; and

**WHEREAS**, the PennEast project is proposing a site location in Kidder Township between Route 940 and Jack Frost Mountain for a required above- ground compressor station which will operate twenty-four hours a day, 365 days-a-year, emitting noxious chemicals and producing constant disturbing levels of noise; and

**WHEREAS**, this pipeline project will maintain its route through Carbon County by the routine use of chemical herbicides to clear vegetation from the pipeline corridors and these chemicals have been

linked to a worldwide decline in insect, amphibious and aquatic species and illness to humans and other mammals.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by County of Carbon, Pennsylvania as follows:

1. County of Carbon objects to the construction and current proposed path of the proposed PennEast pipeline. It also objects to the use of eminent domain to secure the "rights of way" for this project.
2. County of Carbon will act as an "intervener" and/or "objector" through the FERC regulatory process to preserve our ability to effectively represent the interests of the residents of this township. We will exercise careful fiscal oversight in these roles.
3. For such a massive project County of Carbon requires the utmost in preventive safety preparations and fullest mitigation of all negative impacts for our residents and our environment.
4. County of Carbon charges PennEast to engage the concerns of all Carbon County residents, to hold public hearings within the affected townships so that residents may be fully heard and to consider rerouting the proposed pipeline to existing utility "rights of way" or other unoccupied areas wherever possible.
5. County of Carbon charges PennEast to actively pursue ways to minimize the damage the pipeline will cause to our environment, to our preserved properties, to our residents' property values, to our aquifers and to the homes and lives of our residents.

**ADOPTED** by the Carbon County Board of Commissioners this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

**COUNTY OF CARBON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Wayne E. Nothstein, Chairman

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Tom J. Gerhard, Vice-Chairman

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William J. O'Gurek, Member

**ATTEST:**

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Eloise K. Ahner  
Chief Clerk/County Administrator