



Sourland Conservancy
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November 17, 2014

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 inch (36”) buried pipe crossing parts of Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania and Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline cuts through the Sourland Mountain region in West Amwell Township and Hopewell Township, causing or contributing to environmental damage to the following : Agricultural land parcels : 46.7 acres; Forest: 38.5 acres; Built-Up land parcels: 14.9 acres; Wetlands: 4.9 acres; Total: 105 acres

WHEREAS, the pipeline will cross 13 steams/tributaries in the Sourlands, including Jacobs Creek, Alexauken Creek, Woodsville Brook, Baldwins Creek, Peters Brook.

WHEREAS, the pipeline will cross streams of the following order in the Sourlands: Stream Order One: 7 crossings; Stream Order Two: 2 crossings; Stream Order Three: 3 crossings; Stream Order Four: 1 crossing, including the Alexauken Creek, a Category 1 Waterway as per N.J.A.C. 7:9B, requiring anti-degradation protection; and

WHEREAS the Sourland Mountain Region was 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 cuts a swath through the Sourland Mountain region in West Amwell Township and Hopewell Township, 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 the 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 base flow of Sourland streams; and
4. Fragmented forests 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 automobile accidents, increased cases of Lyme's Disease, increased over-browse in the Sourlands forest, increased invasive plant species presence in the Sourlands forest, decreased tree regeneration in the Sourlands forest, and decreased plant and animal biodiversity in the Sourlands forest; and
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 properties that were purchased by non-profit land conservation and protection organizations including the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the D & R Greenway, and the Hunterdon Land Trust; the taxpayers of the State of New Jersey, Mercer County, Hunterdon County, as well as foundations and individual donors and farmers and landowners 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; and
8. Crossing The Mount Airy Historic District, which has New Jersey and Federal Historic Designation (listed on the National Register of Historic Places); and
9. Impacts to Mercer Township-owned and Hopewell Township-owned open space, privately held open space, and scenic vistas; and
10. Invasion and destruction of habitats of threatened species, endangered species and species of special concern.

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline causes damage to the Sourland Mountain region by 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Sourland Conservancy as follows:

1. The Sourland Conservancy Board of Trustees does hereby object to the design and construction of a 36 inch pipeline passing through and under West Amwell Township (Hunterdon County) and Hopewell Township (Mercer County). The construction and operation of the pipeline will significantly damage streams, wildlife habitat, existing farm operations and the quality of life in West Amwell Township and Hopewell Township.
2. The Sourland Conservancy calls for a moratorium on any and all planning for the PennEast Pipeline.
3. The Sourland Conservancy seeks the cooperation of all affected towns and counties, asking that all nearby affected municipalities and counties adopt a similar resolution.
4. The Sourland Conservancy will act as an Intervener and/or Objector to the proposed PennEast Pipeline.
5. The Sourland Conservancy requests the Delaware River Basin Commission, as the agency that manages the water resources of the Delaware River Watershed, to

exercise its full jurisdiction over the PennEast Pipeline Project that passes through the boundaries of the Delaware River Watershed.

6. The Sourland Conservancy encourages and supports the development of renewable energy resources.

ATTEST:

Caroline Katmann

Executive Director
Sourland Conservancy

President, Board of Trustees
Sourland Conservancy

November 17, 2014

Date

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