



August 17, 2016

Kimberly Bose, Secretary

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

888 First Street, NE

Washington, DC 20426

Re: Docket CP15-558-000 – Proposed PennEast Pipeline Project

Dear Ms. Bose:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Sourland Conservancy, an intervenor in this proceeding. The Sourland Conservancy's mission is to protect, promote and preserve the unique character of the Sourland Mountain region, through which the proposed PennEast Pipeline will cut a devastating path. The Conservancy is located in Hopewell, NJ in Mercer County. The Sourland Mountain region lies, within Somerset, Hunterdon and Mercer Counties.

I urge FERC to reconsider your issuance of this DEIS at this time and **withdraw the DEIS**. FERC has a responsibility to receive all the necessary factual data to evaluate this project before reaching any conclusions about its viability or advisability. We have

extensively detailed the massive impacts this project will have in our communities, our water supply, our environment, our economy and our region, through testimony at FERC scoping hearings, FERC Open Houses and thousands of comments to FERC.

Currently, PennEast has failed to provide all the required environmental data for its application. Therefore, the DEIS is premature. In addition to withdrawing the DEIS, I urge you to **extend the public comment period** so the public has ample opportunity to review and comment on the data once it is provided by PennEast.

In this letter, I am commenting on the “public hearing” in Clinton, NJ on Tuesday, August 16, 2016. The following incidents reflect very poorly on FERC and adds to the insult of being given an incomplete and inaccurate EIS and insufficient amount of time to comment. It also supports the public’s perception that FERC is more concerned with supporting the PennEast companies that it is in ensuring the public’s rights are protected, the laws are complied with and that FERC is making a good decision.

- Started comment period earlier than the officially announced time of 6 pm.
- When asked by members of the public to stop the comment period until the officially announced time of 6 pm, both individuals at the sign-in table refused to do so saying it was their meeting and they weren’t going to do as asked by the public.
- Members of the public, who patiently waited in the ballroom while comments were taken behind a curtain (two at a time) were told to quiet down. Remember, these people were waiting for hours for their turn to comment, instead of hearing and learning from the comments of others. With nothing else to do, they spoke quietly with each other while waiting. Perhaps the whole idea of having people commenting to a stenographer behind a curtain was not such a good one?

On behalf of the Sourland Conservancy, I respectfully and vehemently ask that FERC withdraw its Draft EIS, demand the actual field survey data in all required areas and actually listen to the many diverse yet unified voices impacted by this destructive project.

Finally, it is clear from the DEIS that thousands of pages of comments already submitted are being ignored. I am expecting a written response to my comments.

Sincerely,

Caroline Katmann

Executive Director

Sourland Conservancy

[ckatmann@sourland.org](mailto:ckatmann@sourland.org)

609-309-5155

[www.sourland.org](http://www.sourland.org)