



City of Lambertville Pipeline Committee & Lambertville Citizens Against PennEast

# Lambertville City Pipeline Public Meeting

Presented by Sue Begent, Chairperson

10<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Justice Center

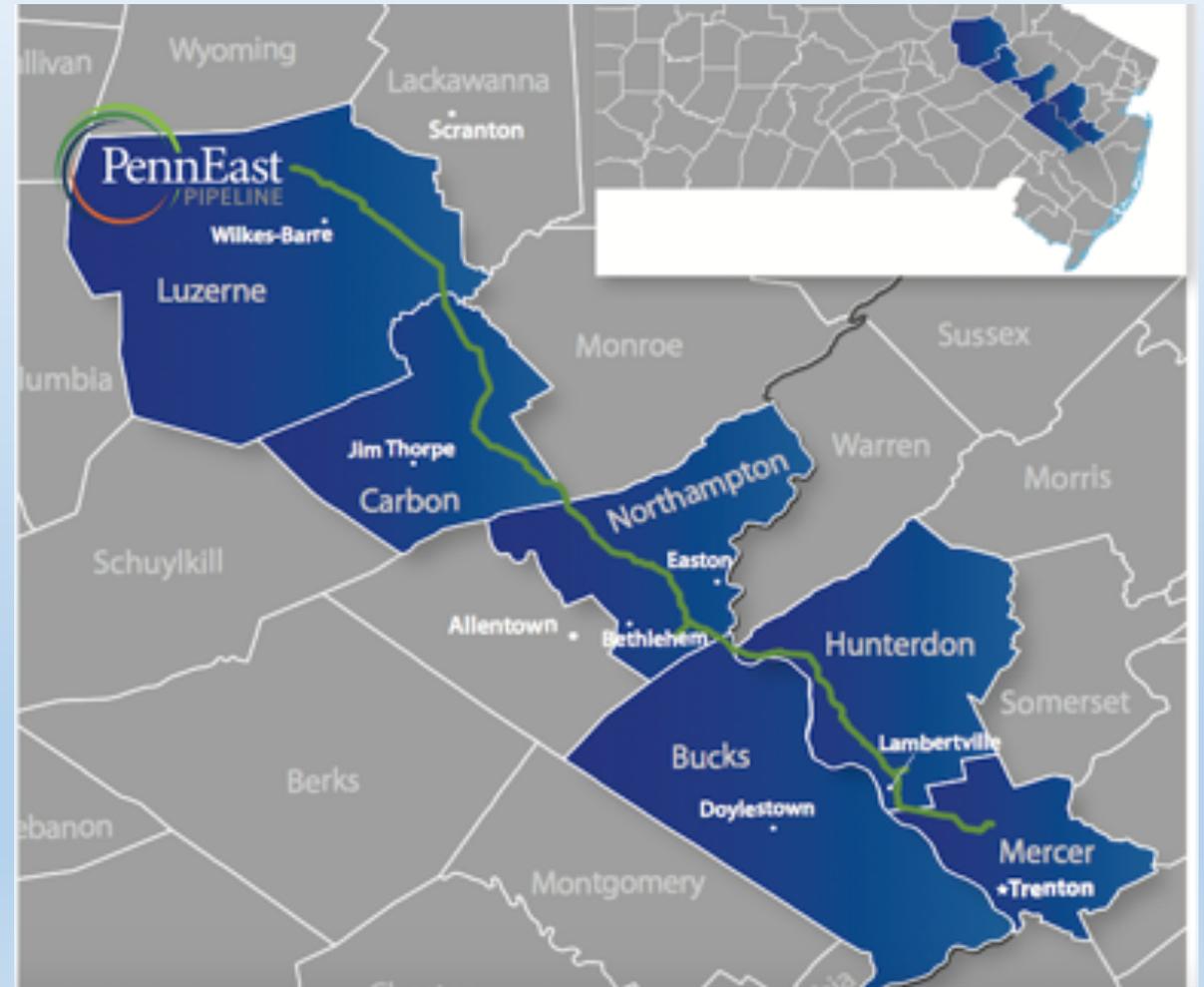


# Agenda

- What is the PennEast Pipeline?
- Why is it of concern – in particular to Lambertville?
- The approval process
- DEIS Comment excerpts/highlights (Lambertville, EPA, NJ DEP, NJ Division of Rate Counsel)
- Recent actions/other intervenors
- The Lambertville Pipeline Committees
- How YOU can get involved

# What is The PennEast Pipeline?

- A proposed 120 mile natural gas pipeline to be constructed through PA and NJ
- Approximately \$1 billion investment
- 118-miles, primarily 36-inch pipeline, designed to deliver approximately 1 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas per day





# Who Are PennEast?



- PennEast is a consortium of utility and energy companies:

- AGL Resources

(parent of Elizabethtown Gas)

- NJR Pipeline Company

(sibling co to NJ Natural Gas)

- PSEG Power

- SJI Midstream

(sibling co to South Jersey Gas)

- Spectra Energy Partners

- UGI Energy Services

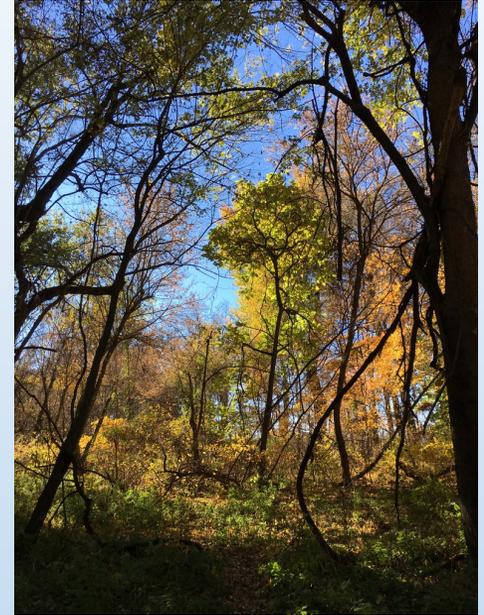
(sibling co to UGI Utilities)



...As for most corporations, time is money...

# Why is it of Concern?

- 80% of the PennEast Pipeline is within the Delaware River watershed
- Crosses both the Delaware River, and the Delaware and Raritan Canal
  - Threat of pollution or to dry up creeks that feed into the river and canal (drinking water)
- Crosses 4,000 acres of preserved natural lands and farms, forests, wetlands, surface and ground water recharge watersheds
- Threatens the habitat of rare, threatened and endangered species
- Risk of irreparable damage to cultural, historical and archaeological features



# Why of Particular Concern to Lambertville?

## 1a) Drinking Water

Our city drinking water comes mainly from the Swan Creek Reservoir, flows down Swan Creek and to the filtration plant in town

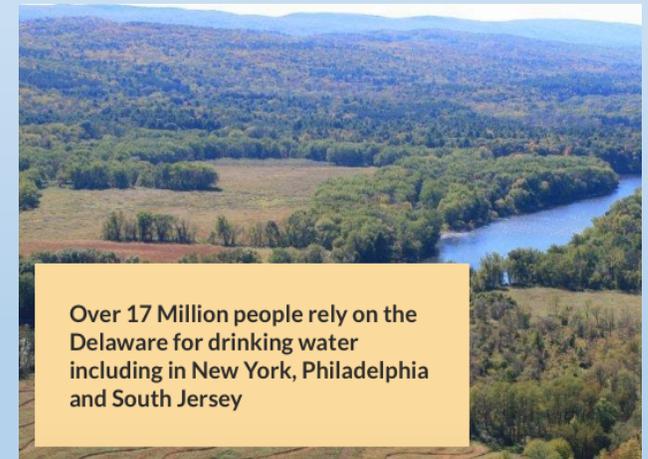
- The proposed pipeline trench cuts directly through our city's main water transfer pipe
- Arsenic is present in the rock to be traversed above Lambertville
- Microbes found on pipelines liberate arsenic
  - Swan and Alexauken Creeks could carry arsenic into the canal and our drinking water



# 1b) More Water Concerns

- Alexauken (a C1 creek) and Swan Creeks both feed into the D&R Canal and into the Delaware River
- The D&R Canal is a source of drinking water for around 600,000 people – including Lambertville (as a back up supply)
- In addition to the liberation of arsenic, “Frack outs” are another risk to both water sources, and the river

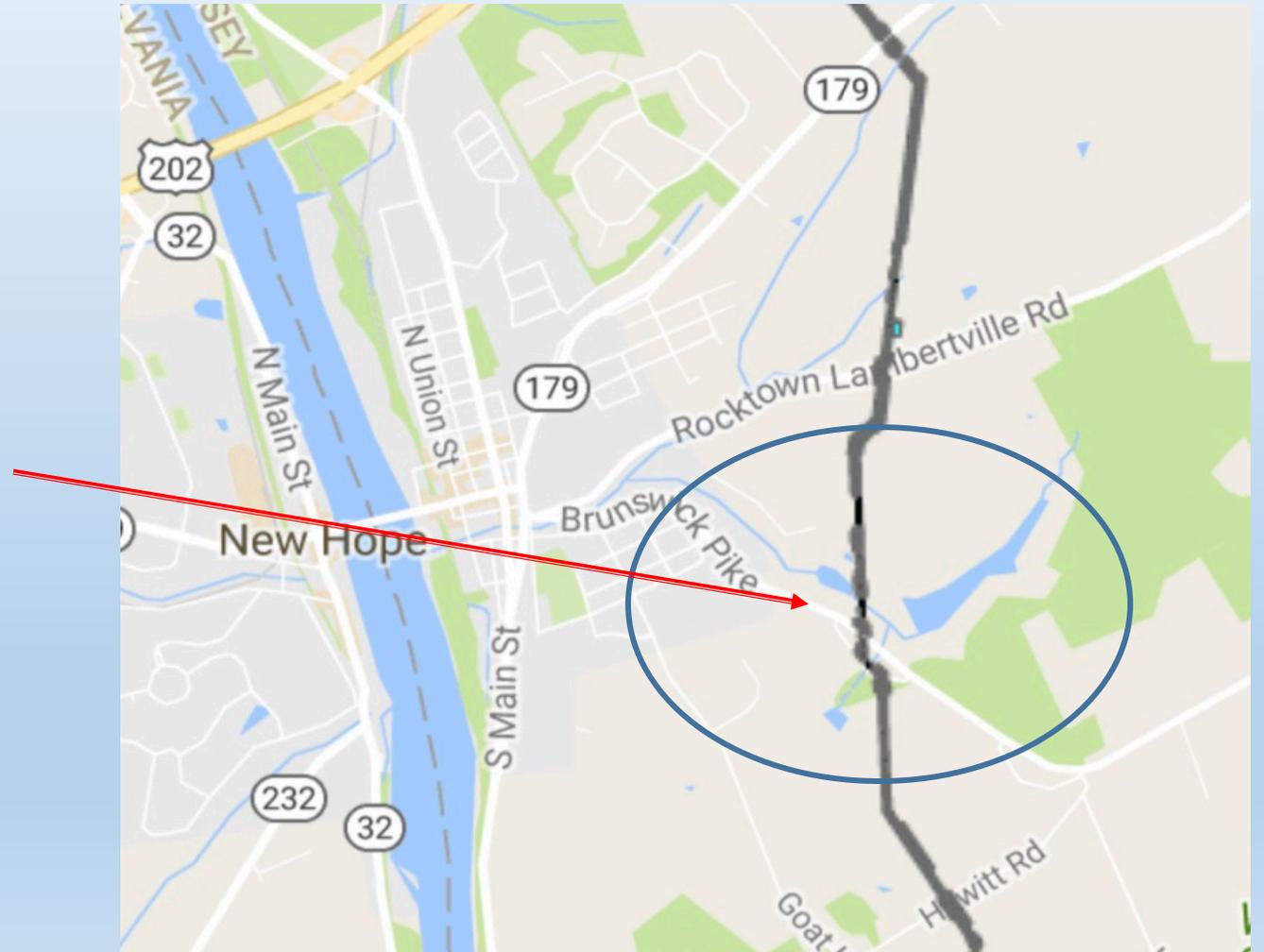
D&R Canal



Delaware River

## 2) Risk to Our Reservoir Dam

- Because of surface bedrock in the vicinity, PennEast has not ruled out the use of blasting in the vicinity of the Swan Creek dam
- There is a risk of breaching or dam collapse during construction
  - “High Hazard” dam



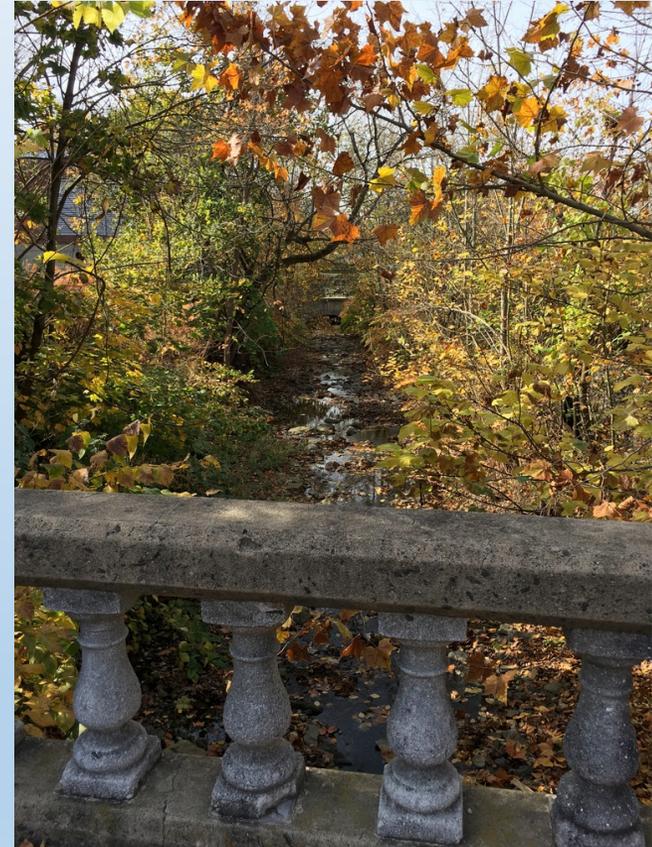
### 3) Further Potential Impact to Residents

- During construction, the pipeline is welded together on site
- Heavy trucks, large machinery and substantial construction equipment will have to use our roads – especially Route 29 between Alexauken Creek and route 518
- Hydrostatic Testing



## 4) Further Concerns: Flooding

- Construction of the PennEast Pipeline raises the possibility of increased runoff at various points along the pipeline route, especially during construction
- Specific to Lambertville, this is of concern in relation to Swan Creek through to the river, and Route 179 into Lambertville



# 5) Risk to Tourism

- Traffic frustration during construction, and lasting visual scars would be inevitable
- Potential negative perceptions associated with water safety and arsenic levels
- Worst case:
  - A major safety event would severely damage Lambertville's reputation and charm as a tourist destination



## 6) Safety Concerns:

Explosions and leaks do happen

- Natural Gas Disasters

- September 2009 Dimock, PA
- September 2010 San Bruno CA
- 2012 & 2013 Dallas, Luzerne CO, PA
- January 2015 Holland Township, NJ
- June 2015 Lycoming County, PA
- April 2016 Salem Township PA.

- Petroleum gas disasters *in the last 2 months*

- October 2016 Milton, Northumberland County PA (Susquehanna)
- November 2016 Helena AL (shut down twice in 2 months)



# Frack Out Issues: Dimock PA September 2009

- As much as 8,000 gallons of dangerous drilling fluids were leaked into a local creek after a series of spills at a natural gas production site
- A leaked fluid consisted of a "potential carcinogen" and is used in the drilling process of hydraulic fracturing, according to state officials
- Drinking water in several homes was found to contain metals and methane gas that had leaked under ground from the same facility



*A drill site entrance near the spill site in Dimock, Pa.,*

# Construction and Inspection:

## Responsibility of the Pipeline Company

- 2010 San Bruno (CA) gas pipeline explosion
- 8 people died
- Problems uncovered during the subsequent investigation included
  - Poor pipeline welds
  - Inadequate inspection by Regulatory agencies
  - Lack of an emergency response plan



# Dallas Luzerne Co, PA



- A **2012** explosion at a natural gas compressor station in Springville, 10 miles NW of Scranton, shook homes half a mile away
- In **2013** a strong odor of gas in a Dallas township school caused panic. The odor was caused by work on a nearby pipeline. The gas company claimed it had notified the town and school, which both denied
- There are 3 pipelines in the vicinity. Residents have complained about damage, noise and vibration, making their home windows rattle, during construction

# Holland Township NJ: January 2015

Susan Grimshaw, Milford, NJ.

Submission to the Penn East FERC DEIS (Excerpt)

- I live about 1000' from the spot where the pipeline in Holland Township erupted yesterday afternoon.
- My house vibrated, the smell was noxious and the sound was like a freight train running through my house.
- This pipeline was only 12" in diameter and it makes my hair stand on end to think what it would have been like had it been 36" as proposed by PennEast



An Elizabethtown Gas truck responds Thursday afternoon to a natural gas line break near Bellis and Shire roads in Holland Township. (Stephen Flood | Lehighvalleylive.com Photo)

January 2015 Holland township

# Lycoming County: June 2015

- A June 2015 a Williams Transco gas pipeline rupture in Lycoming county caused emergency evacuation of 130 residents
- *"I live about 4 miles away and last night chaos erupted in the valley when we could feel the rumble, hear the fire and smell the gas. I just drove by the site about an hour ago, and could smell a metallic odor in the air and my nose and throat burned"*



# Salem Township PA. April 29 2016

- A 15-mile long section of Spectra Energy's Texas Eastern Transmission line exploded 30 miles east of Pittsburgh
- Definitive cause of the explosion is unknown
- A preliminary investigation shows evidence of corrosion on the pipeline, which "indicates a possible flaw in the coating material" used in weld joints at the time of construction in 1981





# So How Does a Pipeline Get Approved?

...Good Question...



# Approval Process Overview

PennEast submitted an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) (September 2015)

FERC prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was made available for public comment July to September 2016

An updated Draft EIS was reopened for comment on 33 Route changes.  
Comments CLOSE December 5th

Final Environmental Impact statement (EIS) is delayed from Dec 15<sup>th</sup> to Feb 17th 2017

FERC issues (likely) Conditional Certificates of Public Convenience And Necessity to proceed

Other approving/commenting Federal and State agencies are:

- Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) whose local authority is carried out by:
  - NJDEP (Department of Environmental Protection)

Issuance of certificates triggers “Eminent Domain”

# Eminent Domain

The power to take private property for public use by a state, municipality, or private person or corporation authorized to exercise functions of public character, following the payment of just compensation to the owner of that property.





# DEIS Comment Highlights

Lambertville City

NJ DEP

US EPA

NJ Ratepayers association



## Lambertville City: Six Key Areas

1. Disruption and potential contamination of our city's water supply
2. Threats to the Swan Creek Reservoir dam
3. Unexamined impact on our wetlands
4. Effects of clear cutting the landscape, including the possibility of increased runoff in the vicinity of Swan Creek Reservoir and Route 179 into Lambertville
5. Unstated new traffic impacts during construction
6. How pipeline construction may hurt our city's thriving businesses and tourism



# Intervenor Brief Excerpts

# NJ DEP

“Penn East possesses information on less than 35% of the total property access along the preferred route”

“It is the DEPs position that FERC should only move forward issuing a final EIS when adequate information is available to FERC for review”

“Long term and cumulative impacts have not been adequately addressed which makes it difficult for the DEP to assess the mitigation that may be required...”

“Based on the entire groundwater portion of the document, neither PennEast, or its consultants, understand the hydro-geology of the rocks of the Newark basin which make up over 90% of the route in NJ”



United States Environmental Protection Agency

Intervenor Brief Excerpts

# US EPA



“The EPA has significant concerns regarding the alternatives analysis... Its not clear the preferred alternative is the only one that can meet the stated purpose and need”

“The current preferred alternative results in significant adverse environmental impacts”

“Many surveys, data collection and analysis are incomplete... a significant amount of information is omitted”

“EPA is concerned about the extent and significance of data left to a later date”

“The study did not address impact of long term operation of the proposed pipeline on spread of arsenic produced by bacteria into groundwater”



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DIVISION OF THE RATE COUNSEL



# Intervenor Highlights: NJ Division Of Rate Counsel

# NJ Division of Rate Counsel



“...PennEast has not demonstrated that the purported increased demand (for)...natural gas in the region... exists”

“The DEIS gives short shrift to the “No Action” alternative”

“The terms under which the project has been proposed are unduly generous to PennEast, and unfair to consumers”

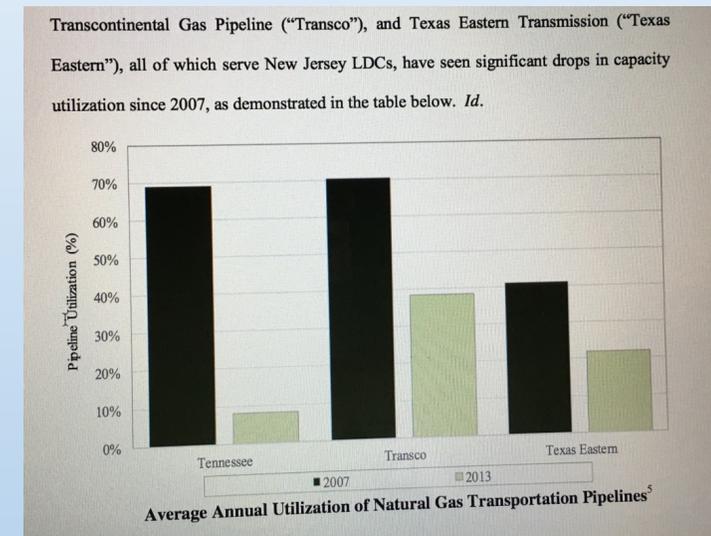
“The (DEIS) record does not support FERC authorization of the project”

# NJ Division of Rate Counsel (2)

“....an independent analysis would have revealed that the forecasted supply and demand requirements can be met through existing supply arrangements”

Demand, (unrelated to the DEIS) reported to the NJ and PA Boards of Public Utilities (NJBPU), projected flat demand out to 2020

“PSE&G reports it has turned back 145,000 Dth/d of capacity in the past year”



# NJ Division of Rate Counsel (3)

“PennEast is requesting rates calculated using a substantially above-market return on equity (ROE) of 14%

ROEs have been trending down significantly and suggest appropriate ROEs in the range of 8%

If NJ LDCs buy transport on PennEast under a 14% ROE, NJ retail customers will pay that 14% return

NJ regulators have established an acceptable range of 9-10%

As reported on the PennEast Web site  
9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016

**\$893 MILLION**

Had PennEast been in service in the 2013-2014 winter, electric and gas customers would have saved more than \$893 million.



# Recent Action: Delaware RiverKeeper

September 21<sup>st</sup> 2016

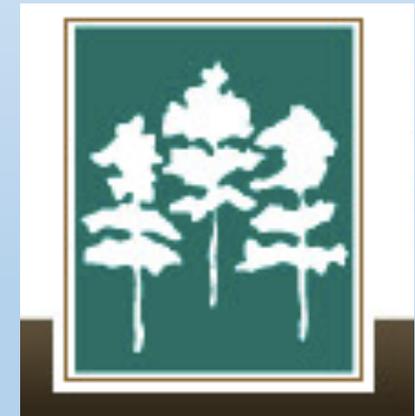
Call for Congressional review of FERC

- It said the agency has approved every pipeline application that has come before it since 1986, and that it will not deny projects because it recovers its operating costs through the fees its charges to the industries it regulates
- Results in uncontrolled and irresponsible proliferation of unneeded natural gas pipelines
- DRK and associated groups are also requesting reform of the Natural Gas Act, which the groups say, gives too much power to FERC and too little to state and local officials



# Recent Action: NJ Sierra Club and Pinelands Preservation Alliance

- The South Jersey Gas natural pipeline is proposed to run through a part of the Pinelands
- In the regulatory push to approve the pipeline, only the commission's executive director, Nancy Wittenberg had weighed in on the project
- The State Superior Court Appellate Division ruled last Monday that the *full* Pinelands Commission should weigh in on the second version of the project before it is approved



Lambertville



## City of Lambertville Pipeline Committee

# Members of the Lambertville City Pipeline Committee

Chairperson	Sue Begent
Mayor	David Del Vecchio
Councilman	Ward Sanders

### Committee members:

Filomena Hengst  
Kelly Kappler  
Judy Carroll Detrano  
Kim Nagy  
Gina Fischetti  
Jeff Tittel

Please Note:

**City Pipeline meetings are  
Open to all residents and the Public**

Meeting dates and times are advertised on the

- City of Lambertville web site
- Lambertville Community Facebook Page
- Lambertville CAP Group Facebook page

Summarized meeting notes may be found in the same locations listed above, and full notes (actions) are available on request



### Actions taken/planned by the committee

- Consultations undertaken with
  - Suez Water
  - Senator Booker's representative
  - US Fish and Wildlife (NJ)
  - Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission
  - NJ Conservation Foundation
- Pending: (next week)
  - Department of Environmental Protection
- Submission to the FERC DEIS
- Preparation for submission to the amended DEIS (prior to December 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Preparation for comment on the Final EIS (December 2016/January 2017)
- Councilman Sanders spoke at an August rally against the pipeline

# Two Unified Groups



## City of Lambertville Pipeline Group

- Leverage insight/impact of city council with influential organizations
- Prepare robust commentary to submit to
  - The reopened FERC DEIS, and EIS when available
  - DRBC
  - US EPA
  - Who else?
- Keep residents fully updated/send out alerts for resident action as required
  - <http://www.lambertvillenj.org> - pipeline information page is coming
- Be prepared to join with other municipalities and organizations for legal action as required

## Lambertville CAP Group

- Provide updates monthly, or as required
- Notify residents of important actions
- Maintain an updated, active Facebook presence “Lambertville CAP group” as a source of information for residents
- Fundraising as needed for pipeline issues
- Take part in Delaware Valley CAP township activities/actions
- CAP submissions to FERC and other organizations reviewing the pipeline to amplify the strength of the Lambertville response

# Your Local “Citizens Against the Pipeline” (CAP) Leaders

Kim  
Nagy



Judy  
Carroll  
Detrano



# What YOU can DO now...

- **Sign up for action alerts tonight!**
- Call or write to your state and federal legislators
- Call the companies behind the Pipeline and tell them to stop!
- Join the NJ Conservation Foundation on November 13<sup>th</sup> for an evening of “pints not pipelines” – raising funds & awareness
- Join the Delaware RiverKeeper at a public hearing
  - December 2<sup>nd</sup> 11.30-4.30pm
  - investigate and testify – FERC and the abuses of power and law

...And don't forget to take a CAP Flyer!

## What YOU can DO now

CALL OR WRITE YOUR SENATORS, CONGRESSMAN, & ASSEMBLYMEN [SAMPLE LETTER](#)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I am a resident of Lambertville and vehemently oppose the proposed PennEast pipeline. As you are the voice of your constituents, I urge you to send your comment to FERC on Docket #CP15-558-000 opposing the PennEast Pipeline.

The proposed route will endanger the water we drink, devastate our natural resources, preserved farmland, damage our air quality, fracture our forests and endanger many of our rare and already endangered species. Our drinking water supplies are our most fundamental precious resource, and we must take definitive steps to protect them. The pipeline proposal crosses forty-three nearly pristine Category One waterways, threatens private wells and Lambertville's Suez Water Supply Company reservoir which provides our drinking water.

Lambertville and the surrounding towns survive on tourism because of our rivers, canals, creeks, and its unique historical significance. The proposed pipeline construction, roadway obstructions and potential accidents would create significant detrimental impact on our economy and way of life. The PennEast pipeline does NOT fulfill a public need and has failed to demonstrate a need. It is for all these reasons that I urge you to submit your opposition to the proposed PennEast pipeline.

Senator Cory Booker - One Gateway Center, 23rd Fl., Newark, NJ 07102, PH-973-639-8700, website: <http://corybooker.com/>  
Senator Bob Menendez-One Gateway Center, Suite 1100, Newark, NJ 07102, PH-973-645-3030, website:[menendez.senate.gov/](http://menendez.senate.gov/)  
Congressman Leonard Lance- 361 Route 31, Unit 1400, Flemington, NJ 08822, PH-908-788-6900, website: <http://lance.house.gov/>  
State Senator Shirley K Turner- 1440 Pennington Rd, Trenton, NJ 08618, PH-609-530-3277  
Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman- 226West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608, PH-609-292-0500  
Assemblyman Reed Gusciora- 226West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608, PH-609-292-0500

### ReThink Energy NJ

**Call, Tell the companies behind PennEast to STOP THE PIPELINE!**

PSE&G Customer Service: (973) 430-7000 Stop the PennEast Pipeline  
South Jersey Industries (SJI) Customer Service: (609) 561-9000  
New Jersey Resources Customer Service: (732) 938-1000

### New Jersey Conservation Foundation

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH**

PINTS NOT PIPELINES

Prallsville Mill 4-7pm

33 Risler Street, Stockton, NJ

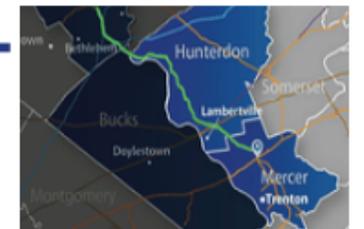
Raising funds & awareness to fight the pipeline. Come enjoy Food, Beer, Music & informative conversations on the dangers of the proposed pipelines

### We The People & Delaware Riverkeeper Network

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 11:30AM-4:30PM**

Public hearing to investigate the abuses of power and law inflicted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Come to add your testimony if you are among those who bear witness to the abuses of FERC.

National Press Club -529 14 Street, NW, Washington, D.C.



proposed pipeline route through Lambertville

Join in...



**Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Gather at 11am and march by noon**

**'Defend the Delaware River Protest'**

- **Calhoun Street Bridge in Trenton**

## **FOCUS**

- Make the moratorium on fracking in the Delaware River Basin permanent
- Urge states to strictly enforce 401 reviews and Clean Water Act regulations
- Ensure DRBC holds at least 7 hearings on the PennEast Pipeline

# *Be Educated & Fundraise for HALT PennEast - Right here in Lambertville!*

Professor Tullis Onstott, Rago Arts and Auction Center,  
November 30<sup>th</sup> 7pm

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

# **HALT**TALKS

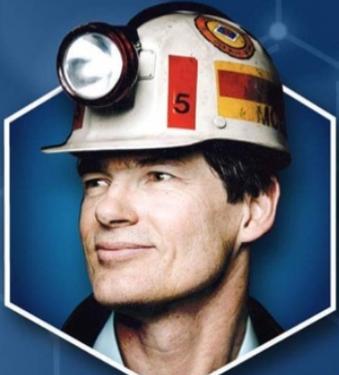
FUNDRAISER

*Benefiting HALT PennEast and New Jersey Conservation Foundation*

Wednesday, November 30, 2016  
From 7:00PM

Rago Arts & Auction Center  
333 North Main Street, Lambertville, NJ 08530  
(Includes an Art Preview)

Hosted by HALT and NICE



**Featured Speaker**

**Tullis Onstott**  
Professor of Geosciences  
Princeton University

*Professor Onstott is listed  
among Time Magazine's*

## Details

HALT Talks with Tullis Onstott. Help HALT and NJCF refuel our pipeline fighting funds. Come and hear Professor Onstott, one of Time Magazines most influential people in the world, talk about his studies and the threat of arsenic in our water supply, preview Rago's upcoming sale, sip wine, and enjoy some light fare provided compliments of Hertzog Associates, a distinctive landscape design and build company.

# Thank You!

Questions?

# Some of the Other FERC DEIS Intervenors/Organizations with Influence

- Suez Water
- Environment NJ
- Clean water action NJ
- NJ Conservation Foundation
- Council of Environmental quality
- Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission
- NJ Water Authority
- Halt PennEast

