

Friday, March 31, 2017

Update for Residents from the Pipeline Committee of Lambertville City

What is the status of the PennEast gas pipeline?

The PennEast Pipeline has not yet gained federal approval, but it is expected this summer. The final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which presents the anticipated impact of PennEast, will likely be issued on April 7 with a federal authorization order by July 6. Natural gas certificates and hydropower licenses issued by FERC also convey the power of eminent domain, so the expropriation of private property in the route will begin immediately after the order is issued on or before July 6. After FERC's authorization, the approval moves to the state level. PennEast suggests a projected in-service date of late 2018, but the rigorous permitting process makes that seem unlikely should the pipeline pass. You will see more and more citizen actions urging state agencies to deny permits, such as those directed toward NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC).

What have we been up to?



In the past month, our committee submitted a letter to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) testifying against PennEast's only compressor station in Kidder Township, PA and toured SUEZ Water to learn about the facility and proposed easement. It was absolutely amazing to see the investments that SUEZ has made to update and improve the infrastructure of our city. Our committee enjoyed learning about these enhancements.

However, our concerns remain regarding the proximity of the proposed construction to the dam, the main water pipe to the city, the amount of trees that will be cleared, and the potential effects on water quality. Swan Creek Reservoir's dam holds back 44 million gallons of water and is labeled a "high hazard" by the State of New Jersey, defined as "the failure of which may cause probable loss of life or extensive property damage." (N.J.A.C. 7:20-1.8). A breach to the dam would be catastrophic to our city. Additionally, as stated in the DEIS, PennEast is planning to use our water for hydrostatic testing and possibly priming their pumps during construction. It is unknown what that will do to our water supply. In the image on the next page, you can see the proposed easement, which will intersect the main pipe from the reservoir to the water treatment plant and involves tree clearing of 50ft on either side of the line.

Upcoming committee activities

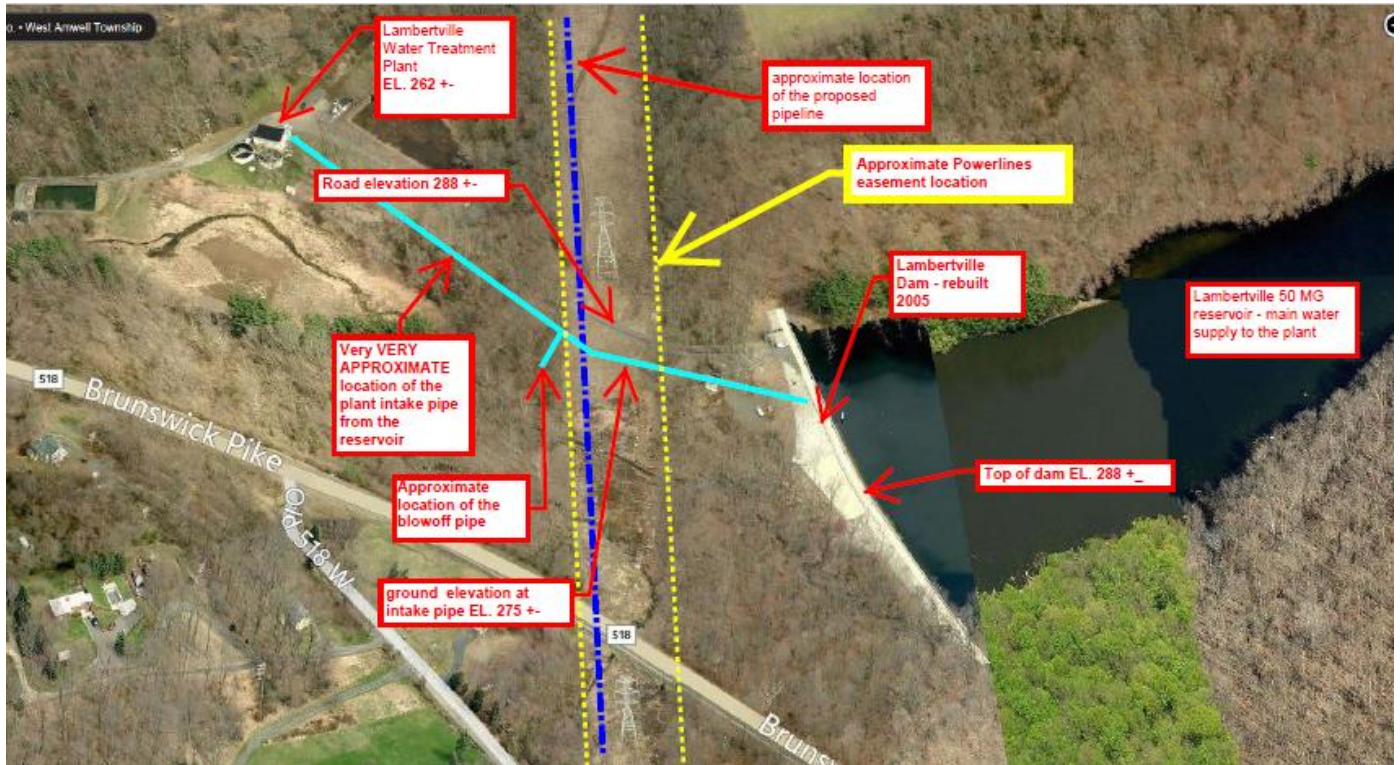
Our committee will have a table at Shadfest. Local folks involved with the pipeline will be there to raise awareness and have literature on display. Stop by to chat and learn more!



We will also present at a special session of the Governing Body on **Tuesday, May 2 at 7 PM** at the Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center located at 25 South Union Street in Lambertville. Stefanie Brand, Lambertville resident and Director for the NJ Division of the Rate Counsel, will present critical findings regarding the need for the PennEast Pipeline in New Jersey. We will also have an update from SUEZ Water and a panel of invited guests to answer questions from the audience. We will also make sure to provide you with information regarding "What You Can Do Now" to help. Hope to see you there!

Diagram of the proposed construction at SUEZ

The Swan Creek Reservoir dam is found on the right, existing power lines are pictured in the easement and the teal line indicates the main pipe that connects the reservoir to the water treatment plant. Trees will be cleared and pipeline construction (drilling or blasting) is expected to occur in the yellow, dotted area with the blue line indicating the proposed placement of the gas pipe.



Related information

- Senators Booker and Menedez submitted a [letter to FERC](#) echoing the concerns about PennEast's impact on the environment, public health, endangered species, and arsenic contamination.
- Hundreds of people rallied and provided statements against PennEast at the February and March DRBC meetings held in Washington Crossing, PA.
- PSE&G pulled out of PennEast and sold their 10% share.
- PA DEP issued PennEast a Water Quality Certificate, which is a necessary approval according to section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act. This is one of the many requirements for PennEast.

Local events

- [April 8](#): "No Certification Without Justification" rally event featuring speakers, music, period costumes, town criers, "wagon stage" and more. Located at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ from 11:00 – 2:00 PM.
- [April 12](#): From Standing Rock to PennEast: The Impact of Oil & Gas Pipelines at the Raritan Valley Community College Conference Center in Branchburg, NJ from 6:00 – 9:00 PM.
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network is hosting a series of webinars about pipelines. [Click here](#) for more info.