

Green Sergeant's Bridge
New Jersey's Only Remaining Covered Bridge

## Delaware Township

Hunterdon County, New Jersey
www.DelawareTwpNJ.org

OFFICE OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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September 29, 2015

Bob Martin, Commissioner New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection 401 E. State Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor P. O. Box 402 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402

RE: Proposed PennEast Pipeline

Dear Commissioner Martin:

In the August 11, 2015 Monthly Progress Report, PennEast included meeting minutes from a July 2, 2015 meeting between representatives of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) and PennEast. In these meeting minutes, PennEast indicated that they wanted to move forward on the permit application now, using remote sensing for impact assessment where access to parcels had yet to be granted. In addition, PennEast indicated they would like to submit an incomplete FWW and FHA individual permit application to the Department due to lack of access to affected parcels.

The Delaware Township Committee is extremely concerned that PennEast's inability to meet its submittal mandates may be administratively waved by allowing remote sensing for impact, undermining public voice expressed by the majority of Delaware Township residents in survey opposition. However, the Delaware Township Committee has the confidence the Department will hold PennEast accountable and enforce the requirement of physical on-site surveys.

In Delaware Township, only 14.29% of impacted landowners have granted PennEast permission to conduct a survey on their property. The landowners of Delaware Township have sent a very loud and clear message that they do not want the proposed pipeline. And without PennEast being able to obtain access to these parcels to conduct onsite field surveys, PennEast cannot submit complete and accurate Final Resource Reports to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) nor the Department thereby hindering both FERC's and the Department's ability to provide an adequate and appropriate review.

The Pennsylvania DEP and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers have stated in their meetings with PennEast that remote-sensed data and desktop surveys cannot be used in place of field surveys, and they will not be accepted in lieu of them.

Therefore, the Delaware Township Committee is requesting that the Department <u>not</u> allow PennEast to use remote sensing or desktop surveys for conducting assessments in New Jersey. The Delaware Township Committee is also requesting that the Department <u>not</u> accept any data collected without an onsite field survey of the affected parcel. In addition, the Delaware Township Committee would like the Department to ensure that PennEast must submit a technically complete application or else the Department should deem their application as incomplete.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

Joseph Vocke

Deputy Mayor, Delaware Township

cc: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Glenn Weitknecht, US Army Corps of Engineers
Cindy Randazzo, NJDEP Office of Local Government Assistance
Ruth Foster, NJDEP Office of Permit Coordination
Anthony C. Cox, PennEast Pipeline LLC
Congressman Leonard Lance
Senator Cory Booker
Senator Robert Menendez
Assemblyman Jack M. Ciattarelli
Assemblywoman Donna Simon
Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman