



January 9, 2020

Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

**RE: PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC; FERC Docket Nos. CP15-558-000 and CP19-78-000;
PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC Request Extension for Time**

Dear Secretary Bose:

In addition to the January 6, 2020 comments submitted together with New Jersey Conservation Foundation and The Watershed Institute, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network is submitting the following further comments regarding the PennEast Pipeline Company's (PennEast) request for extension of in-service date.

On January 19, 2018, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity to PennEast Pipeline Company for its 115-mile fracked gas pipeline, proposed to cut through the Delaware River watershed in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. FERC's Certificate Order required PennEast to complete construction of the proposed project and make it available for service *within two years* from the date of the Certificate. Now, just weeks before that date approaches, PennEast has requested an extension. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network opposes PennEast's baseless request for an extension of time and urges FERC to reject the request.

The PennEast Pipeline has already proven to be a failure in the eyes of the public, a growing number of agencies (that are saying "no" or asking, yet again, for more information) and the courts. The pipeline company's materials are deficient or outright false, the harm it would inflict is irreparable, and ultimately, the pipeline is just not needed and cannot be justified. It's time for FERC to stand by its own certificate conditions and shut down the proposed PennEast Pipeline.

PennEast has known for over three months that New Jersey denied the project's needed Clean Water Act approvals and that they would not be able to gain access to 42 of the 131 properties along its proposed route in NJ, with any potential for progress towards construction on the proposed route stymied by both of those significant legal obstacles. If PennEast had any intention of respecting the conditions FERC outlined in its

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
dm@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

certificate, they would have requested an extension then, rather than wait until the last minute in an attempt to force FERC's hand. FERC should reject PennEast's eleventh hour request for an extension of its in-service date on this basis alone.

FERC cannot just extend the deadline on PennEast's certificate while the project design and proposed route continues to change. FERC has already allowed PennEast to segment the review of its significant route changes to the project in Pennsylvania, and it is almost certain now that PennEast will need to find a new route through NJ that will be completely different from what FERC has already approved.

If FERC approves this extension, they will be essentially writing PennEast a blank check—allowing them to fill in the route, the species, the waterways, the properties that they will irreparably harm under FERC's rubber stamp. We urge you to deny PennEast's baseless request for extension and require that they submit a new application with a legally viable route and documented environmental and economic data on the new project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maya K. van Rossum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper

Document Content(s)

DRN Request to Reject PennEast Extension 1.9.20.PDF.....1-2