



Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Partnership River (LDW&S)
Richard Dodds, Management Council Chairman
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March 7, 2019

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Secretary Bose,

RE Public Comment Submission Regarding Application for Amendment to Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC, Docket No. CP19-78.

The Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Management Council is writing to express concern about the negative outcome amendments could impose on the Lower Delaware Watershed. Amendments are inconsistent with our River Management Plan goal to maintain existing water quality in the Delaware River and its tributaries from “measurably degrading and improving it where practical.” In particular, the potential for riparian downstream cumulative impacts within the Lower Delaware region are worrisome.

We believe the proposed new alignments need further examination. Please complete the process of identifying water wells and springs not previously crossed by the Certificated Route. In addition, provide an analysis of how the Revised Pennsylvania Route will cross thirteen more Wild Trout Waters compared to the Certificated Pennsylvania Route.

These proposed modifications to the Pipeline Route also lack critical information. Significant impacts have not been properly documented and data gaps remain. Data gaps in the application make it difficult for government agencies and the general public to examine route modifications. It is distressing that this application, as well as the Chapter 105 permit application with PADEP, have the same issue of missing information. This concern is further demonstrated with NJDEP’s rejection of PennEast’s permit applications due to incomplete documentation.

Finally, the three week public comment period is not sufficient. Please extend the comment period an additional 90 days and schedule public hearings for impacted communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the board,
Richard Dodds
Chairman

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed by Congress in 1968 with the goal of protecting the free-flowing condition of rivers. The Lower Delaware was designated in 2000 as a Wild and Scenic River from river mile 193.8 to the northern border of the City of Easton; from south of the Gilbert Generating Stations to north of the point Pleasant Pumping Station; from South of the Point Pleasant Pumping Station to 1,000 feet north of the Route 202 Bridge; from 1,750 feet south of the Route 202 bridge to Washington Crossing. Some of the tributaries in the Lower Delaware were also designated including Tinicum Creek (headwaters of two upper branches to the Delaware River confluence), Tohickon Creek (downstream of Lake Nockamixon to the Delaware River confluence), and Paunacussing Creek (portions passing through Solebury Township to the Delaware River). The Musconetcong River (3.5 mile stretch from Saxton Falls to Route 46 and the 20.7 mile stretch from King’s Highway Bridget to the railroad tunnels at Musconetcong Gorge).