

For Immediate Release

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PennEast Now Targeting New Hope and Central Bucks County

The day before Thanksgiving PennEast has proposed an alternative route for their proposed pipeline to the FERC Docket. Their new route includes 80 different deviations and two more crossings of the Delaware River. This 20-mile change is to get around important sites like Goat Hill, the Lambertville Reservoir, Howell Farm, and Baldpate Mountain. The route instead now targets Solebury, Buckingham, Newton and other towns in Pennsylvania. It would cross into New Jersey above New Hope and back into Pennsylvania near Delaware Ave, in Ewing.

"PennEast's new alternative 20-mile route targets central Bucks County, including areas like New Hope, Washington's Crossing, Solebury, Newton and more. This would cause much more environmental devastation and destruction along the way. The longer route means more wetlands and streams will be disrupted and polluted by drilling. Places like Delaware Township and Holland Twp. will see more HDD since PennEast can now use permit-by-rule instead of individual permits. The addition of two more River crossing creates twice as much chance for pollution and degradation to the Delaware," **said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.** "This route will mean more people put in harm's way and more waterways being threatened. We're going to need more people from the Pennsylvania side to join us in our fight against this pipeline. If we want to stop PennEast we have to stand together."

The new route adds 20 miles through new areas, especially Bucks County. It also adds waterways such as wetlands and streams that will be disturbed that wouldn't have been beforehand. Thanks to the new Flood Hazard Rules that the Christie Administration used to rollback protections, PennEast will have an easier time disrupting these waterways. They can use permit-by-rules rather than individual permits to be allowed to drill through dozens of streams and other waterways.

"PennEast is still playing games with their routes for this unneeded pipeline. This 20-mile deviation was created to bypass environmentally significant locations such as Baldpate Mountain. However, the new route is 20 miles longer, putting the pipeline past more homes and putting even more people in harm's way. By bypassing these environmentally sensitive areas, PennEast will also be bypassing the regulatory hurdles attached to them. This will make it easier for them to build their damaging pipeline," **said Jeff Tittel.** "We don't believe in sacrificing one thing for another. We want to protect both our environmentally sensitive lands and our communities."

The PennEast Pipeline would threaten the entire Valley including 91 acres of wetlands and over 44 miles of forest; over 1,600 acres' total. This is a serious project that will affect many people on both sides of the river. PennEast Pipeline also does not even have enough information for necessary permits required from NJDEP. The PennEast Pipeline violates the Clean Water Act and cannot meet the criteria for 404 permits. Also, we believe that this pipeline cannot meet the requirement for a 401 water quality permit. The reason is because of the amount of high quality streams, wetlands, and rivers it is crossing through. Many of these streams carry anti-degradation criteria. The route will cut areas with steep slopes having a bigger impact on streams because of siltation and runoff.

"PennEast submitted these changes with a few days left in the comment period. This is a deliberate move to try and get around public comment. Each time there is a new change, new people are put at risk and they may not even know about it. There are people who suddenly have a pipeline going through their property and practically no time to make a formal comment on it. FERC needs to extend the comment period and allow these people more time to comment or tell PennEast to go back to the drawing board," **said Jeff Tittel.** "The FERC DEIS is fatally flawed and they cannot meet the regulatory requirements for water quality permits. The pipeline will destroy the Delaware Valley and change the landscape forever. The more changes and delays we see from PennEast shows us that our opposition is working."

The New Jersey Sierra Club has previously submitted comments to FERC asking them to deny the DEIS because it is incomplete. There are 79 instances of missing information in the document and people were not awarded the

proper amount of time to analysis and comment on it. We believe that for all these reasons, FERC should deny the DEIS.

"Thousands of people have come out against this pipeline and thousands have testified and sent in comments in opposition. The people of the Delaware River Valley are opposed to the PennEast Pipeline and want them to withdraw their application to FERC, but PennEast is trying to change parts of the route to make it look like they are listening to the concerns of the public. Instead of ending this proposal entirely, which what the people want, they are trying to push this damaging and dangerous project through. This project must be stopped completely," **said Jeff Tittel**. "PennEast doesn't even have enough information to apply in the first place which makes this a mockery of the whole NEPA process. Over 70 percent of landowners have denied PennEast survey access and said NO to the pipeline. Without this survey access they have not gained enough data for a DEIS. Since they don't have enough information on the pipeline's potential impacts to the environment and safety concerns, this cannot be considered a proper analysis."

FERC's hearing testimony process for this DEIS was completely new from what people were used to and in our opinion, ineffective. First, they only gave people 52 days to review the document. They held six public hearings but only two of them in New Jersey. The hearing process itself was changed from the typical format when people can get up in front of an audience and speak. Instead, commenters were called in one at a time to privately record their testimony with a stenographer.

"Now that the route has been changed FERC must re-open the comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The DEIS, even with the tons of holes, makes it clear that this pipeline would be a catastrophe for the environment of the Delaware Valley. With these new changes, the public deserves the right to analyze PennEast's new impact to environmentally sensitive areas and their communities," **said Jeff Tittel**. "The PennEast pipeline will not only our waterways but forests, open space, and farmland. Even worse, pipelines like PennEast will promote fracking; cause water and air pollution, and contribute to climate change. PennEast is part of a system that includes the Garden State Expansion project and Southern Reliability Link pipeline. Pipelines are also a safety hazard to the homes and communities they pass. Natural gas pipelines explode all too often."

The PennEast Pipeline would threaten the Delaware Valley's environment and communities. PennEast has not been able to prove they can get the necessary permits for construction and operation and their DEIS is incomplete. The pipeline would damage important waterways, including the Delaware River. The people of the region have not been given the proper amount of time and opportunity to speak out against this project that threatens their homes, safety, and environment. For all of these reasons, the DEIS should be rejected.

"All PennEast Pipeline is really doing with their games is rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. PennEast has continued to play games to push this dangerous and destructive project through the Delaware Valley. We must demand FERC to do its job to protect and represent us by extending the comment period to comment on this new information. This Draft EIS was a joke to begin with, PennEast snuck in changes after the comment period closed, and now they are changing the route yet again. FERC cannot let this unacceptable behavior stand. They must re-open the comment period, or better yet, deny this DEIS and stop this damaging and dangerous pipeline that needs to get the FERC out of our valley!" **said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club**. "PennEast keeps coming up with more options for their dangerous and unneeded pipeline but the only option should be No-Build."

[A map of PennEast's alternate route loop can be seen here.](#)

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