Hopewell Township PENNEAST PIPELINE Town Hall Meeting

Topic:  PennEast wants to build a 115-mile natural gas line from Luzerne County, Pennsylvania to Mercer County, New Jersey. Part of it will go through Hopewell Township, NJ.

Need:  The town council wants to hear from the town residents and businesses to help them decide whether or not to allow the Pipeline to be built in the Township.

Your job, as a business owner or resident, is state your position (yes or no) and evidence to support that position from 3 areas:

1. Socioeconomic
2. Environmental (land, air, water)
3. Safety

Rubric:  The township decision will be based on the quality of your argument based on (scores of 1,2, and 3 awarded in each category):

1. Use of Evidence
2. Source and Quality of Evidence
3. Science Content Understanding
4. Adherence to the Presentation Protocol

Representation:  Circle group you have been assigned to represent:

Business Owners FOR  Business Owners AGAINST
Residents FOR  Residents AGAINST

Your Resources:

1. Project Map
2. Hopewell Township Map
3. PennEast Pipeline Statement
5. Town Demographics
6. Hopewell Township Citizens Against the Pipeline
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FACT SHEET

Population: 17,500 people

- 7,000 households
- 1,200 businesses

Size: 65 square miles

Developed space: 30 square miles

- Downtown Hopewell
- Downtown Pennington
- Titusville
- Brandon Farms Development
- Route 31 business district

Open space: 35 square miles

- Delaware River
- Washington Crossing park
- Baldplate Mountain
- Sourland Mountain Range
- Stonybrook Watershed

Heating Fuel Services:

- Elizabethtown Gas
  - 4,200 households (60%)
  - 960 businesses (80%)
- Bob’s Oil Tank Refills
  - 2,100 households (30%)
  - 234 businesses (19.5%)
- Wood Chop Wood Delivery
  - 560 households (8%)
  - 0 businesses (0%)
- Alternative energy (solar and wind power)
  - 144 households (2%)
  - 6 businesses (.5%)

Water:

- Individual well
  - 4,760 households (68%)
  - 120 businesses (10%)
- Public water
  - 2,240 households (32%)
  - 1,080 businesses (90%)
Modified Impact Statement for Hopewell Twp review:

The purpose of this statement is to inform PennEast and the Township of Hopewell the environmental impacts of the PennEast pipeline project (affecting 14 square miles of Hopewell Twp). We collected our data from our research; the research of PennEast; field studies; contacts with government agencies, businesses, and citizens; and a literature review.

We looked at impacts on geology; water resources; wetlands; aquatic resources; vegetation and wildlife; endangered and threatened species; socioeconomics; air quality and noise; and safety.

Key Terms:
- **Mitigation** – to reduce the seriousness of something
- **Socioeconomic** – how money spent/earned affects the social activities in a community (jobs, shopping, etc)
- **Emissions** – the release of something, such as gas or pollutants
- **Revenue** – money earned
- **Cumulative** – the sum total

Our Summary Findings:

**Geology** –
- Mineral resources include crushed stone, lime, sand and gravel production.
- Seismic hazards might include earthquakes and surface faults
- Erosion might occur during construction
- Naturally occurring arsenic may be disturbed and affect water supplies

**Conclusion**: if PennEast follows all laws and safety codes and our suggestions to improve safety, *the Project will have no significant impacts on local geology.*

**Water Resources/Wetlands** –
- Potential pollution of 2 public wells are located within 150 miles of pipeline
- Potential pollution 3 bodies of water will be crossed, including the Delaware River
- 8 million gallons of water will be used during construction
- 5 acres of wetlands will be impacted (disturbance of habitat)

**Conclusion**: if PennEast implements its plans as proposed and our suggestions to minimize impact, *the Project will have no significant impacts on water and wetland quality and quantity.*
Aquatic Resources –

Possible impacts on invertebrates and fish may include:

- Habitat removal
- Increase of sedimentation
- Increased erosion of streambanks
- Temporary disturbing of streambed foraging areas
- Temporary increase of fuel/chemical spills
- Temporary water flow restrictions

**Conclusion:** if PennEast implements its plans as proposed and our suggestions to minimize impact, *the Project will have minimal overall impacts on aquatic resources.*

Vegetation and Wildlife -

Possible impacts on vegetation and wildlife may include:

- Displacement
- Habitat destruction (short and long-term)
- Death
- Damage to the unique habitats of Baldplate Mountain and Sourland Mountains
- Introduction of invasive plants

**Conclusion:** if PennEast implements its plans as proposed and our suggestions to minimize impact, *the Project will have minimal overall impact on vegetation and wildlife*

Endangered and Threatened species ---

- Indiana Bat
- Northern Long-eared bat
- Bog turtle
- Northeastern Bulrush (plant)
- Atlantic Sturgeon

**Conclusion:** if PennEast implements its plans as proposed, *the Project will likely have negative impacts on endangered/threatened species. More research and mitigation plans recommended before approval.*

Socioeconomics –

Possible financial impacts on the community:

- Job creation
- Increased Tax revenue
- Increased purchases at local businesses made by workforce
- Traffic related to temporary construction detours

**Conclusion:** if PennEast implements its plans as proposed, the Project will likely have minor to moderate positive financial impacts on the community

**Air Quality and Noise** –

Possible impacts local air quality and noise pollution:

- Increased emission and air pollution by diesel and gasoline engines
- Increased dust due to soil disturbance
- Increased noise pollution due to blasting and permanent compressor station
- Increased release of greenhouse gases (GHG’s) from compressor station

**Conclusion:** if PennEast implements its plans as proposed along with our mitigation recommendations, the Project would not result in significant air quality and noise impacts on residents and the surrounding environment

**Safety** –

Potential safety issues:

- Leaks from pipes due to corrosion
- Valve damage/malfunction
- Lack of use of remote control shut-off valves

**Conclusion:** if PennEast implements its plans as proposed along with implementation of the US Department of Transportation’s Minimum Federal Standards for 2020, the Project would not result in significant safety concerns for the public and environment

**Summary Conclusion:** A majority of the impacts associated with the Project would be temporary and relatively minor overall. However, some long-term cumulative impacts would occur on wetland and forested vegetation and associated wildlife habitats, as well as air quality. Some of the short-term benefits to the community include revenue realized through jobs, wages, and purchases of goods and materials. Long-term cumulative benefits to the community would be realized through increased tax revenue, and the potential for improvement in the air quality if a portion of the natural gas from the Project was used to replace the use of other more polluting fossil fuels. Therefore, we conclude that the construction and operation of the Project would result in some adverse environmental impacts, but impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of PennEast’s proposed and our recommended mitigation measures.
What’s the Big Deal?

Why you should be concerned.

Here are some reasons not to build the pipeline

ENVIROMENTAL DEVASTATION

This pipeline, if approved by FERC, would cut a 125-foot swath of permanent devastation for 108 miles. In Hopewell Township alone, it would crash through more than 1200 acres; destroying legally-designated wetlands and preserved farmlands, 125+ year-old forests, and historically-certified sites in its scarring path through our community. Once you cut down a forest or disrupt the soil on a farm it isn’t coming back. The damage is permanent. Communities in Hunterdon County, and in Pennsylvania, upstream from Mercer County and Hopewell Township, would be similarly and irreparably harmed.

The effects of this new right of way pipeline would be particularly pernicious environmentally. Pipelines currently in development in New Jersey are being co-located along existing rights of way. The especially noxious PennEast pipeline targets tax payer paid for open space and preserved farmland because its cheaper and easier. New rights of way also create a new ‘pipeline super highway’ for future pipelines and the pumping and compressor stations that can accompany them. This pipeline makes a mockery of our state preservation laws and erodes the protections they offer.

Co-location isn’t the answer. PennEast has proposed an alternate co-located route, which means the pipeline would be located on existing right of way already developed for the power grid. While this would be less destructive to forests and farmland in some areas than PennEast’s original greenfields route, the fact is we do not want nor do we need this pipeline at all. Both routes will pollute our air and water. Both routes create risks to our health and safety. Both routes violate people’s property rights.

EMINENT DOMAIN

Use of eminent domain will limit property owners and city government from exercising their rights as land owners and administrators. The FERC has the power to grant pipeline companies the go ahead to execute eminent domain.
A private for-profit company usurping property for an economic enterprise that is not in the interest of the residents directly impacted or the public in general, is not how we should do things in America. Taking property is a serious endeavor and should only happen in the rarest and most extraordinary circumstances. This isn’t one of them.

**CULTURAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC HERITAGE**

Hopewell Township has a rich and diverse history. This is part of the reason that many of us moved to Hopewell Township. It is never a sure thing that construction of this scale will leave historic properties intact. The more we know about archaeological material that has been found along the route, the stronger case we can make demanding a detailed investigation. Archaeological sites are non-renewable resources — you can’t un-dig a site. It is always preferred to leave archaeological sites alone unless there is a research hypothesis to be addressed by its disturbance.

**PIPELINES EXPLODE!**

(information: [Pipeline Safety Tracker](http://nogaspipeline.org/the-danger))

As the horrific natural gas line explosion in San Bruno on September 9 shows us, a pipeline explosion does an incredible amount of damage to life and livelihood, claiming 8 lives and injuring at least 60 people, some critically. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) found an electrical failure caused a pressure surge in the pipeline before San Bruno explosion. This means that any mechanical or electrical failure can lead to eventual explosion.

According to the Wall Street Journal, there were 47 pipeline incidents in the U.S. in 2009 that caused death or serious injury. Previous to the San Bruno explosion, there have been three other incidents in 2010. 10 people have been killed and 33 seriously injured.

According to [AOL News](http://www.aol.com), Jim Hall, who chaired National Transportation Safety Board during the Clinton administration and made pipeline safety his cause. “All of these underground pipelines are potential bombs.”

**DAY-TO-DAY TOXINS HAVE A FAR REACH**

Toxins released into the air from the metering station and block valves release air-borne carcinogens endangering the health of all residents in our community irrespective of where you live.
Hopewell Township Route

Overall Route