



Office of the Mayor, Liz Lempert

Princeton Municipal Building

400 Witherspoon Street

Princeton, NJ 08540

October 3, 2014

Dear County Executive Hughes and Members of the Freeholder Board:

I am writing to you to express my concern over the proposal by AGL Resources, NJR Pipeline Company, South Jersey Industries, UGI Energy Services and Public Service Electric and Gas to construct new natural gas pipeline infrastructure through our neighbors in Hopewell, West Amwell and Delaware Townships as part of the PennEast Pipeline proposal.

There are at least seven pending proposals to build pipelines in the Delaware River Basin, and eleven such proposals have been approved since 2011, threatening the Delaware River and other critical water resources. The proposed PennEast Pipeline alignment crosses numerous preserved farms and conservation land, including Mercer Meadows Park, New Jersey Conservation Foundation's Wickecheoke Creek Preserve; D&R Greenway Land Trust's Penn View Heights property in Pennington; and other properties on which these organizations, the Hunterdon Land Trust and the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association hold easements.

The proposed PennEast pipeline would terminate at and connect to a pipeline owned by Williams/TRANSCO, which is already seeking to construct a larger pipeline on the Princeton Ridge and owns other lines within the boundaries of Princeton.

The pipeline projects involve destruction of forests, segmentation and destruction of animal habitat, disturbance of natural ground cover that is displaced by invasive species, and degradation of rivers, streams and wetlands. And to what end? These pipeline projects are proposed based on speculative demand in other regions and countries and a glut of natural gas being extracted by hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in the Marcellus Shale region. Princeton has adopted an ordinance banning fracking within its borders, as has Middlesex County.

The cumulative environmental impacts of these pipeline projects will be substantial and detrimental. I strongly encourage you to do all within your powers to protect the environmental resources of Mercer County and to partner with surrounding communities to prevent the further intrusion of the oil and gas industry into our streams and forests.

Sincerely,

Mayor Liz Lempert