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For Immediate Release

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**Pennsylvania's Governor Wolf and PADEP Secretary McDonnell
Give Away State's Limited Authority by Prematurely Certifying
PennEast Pipeline**

Bristol, PA: On Monday, February 13, 2017 the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) granted Clean Water Act Certification to the PennEast Pipeline project. The announcement came despite the fact that the PADEP has not done the review of regulations necessary to determine if PennEast is entitled to this certification and before the exact route and elements of the project are even final and the subject of a final Environmental Impact Statement.

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and head of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, released the following statement in response:

Today Pennsylvania issued 401 Certification for the PennEast pipeline project.

Once again Governor Wolf and his DEP have put the cart before the horse and made a mockery of our environmental protection laws and of the state's obligation to protect our water resources, wetlands, and environments from unnecessary harm.

The PennEast project isn't even in final form yet, its Environmental Impact Statement isn't complete, and PADEP hasn't done the reviews necessary to determine whether this moving target can comply with the state regulations necessary to entitle it to 401 clean water act certification. And yet, once again, Governor Wolf and his DEP have prematurely given approval for a project that, when you look at the facts, science, law and devastating impacts should in fact never be built.

It is a total sell out of the community, an abdication of responsibility and a give away of the little bit of power the state has over fracked gas pipeline projects and is clearly being done at the direction of, and under the watchful and approving eye, of Governor Wolf.

With this action, Governor Wolf is once again making his priority the profits and goals of the pipeline companies and the fracked gas industry, not the people he was supposedly elected to serve.

A copy of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network previously filed comments on the certification proposal can be found at: <http://bit.ly/DRNPA401Comment2>

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