



For more go to: <http://shalejustice.org/atlantic-sunrise-project-williams-companies-inc/>

The **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** has issued a Notice of Intent that it will be preparing an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** for the proposed **Atlantic Sunrise Expansion** of the **TRANSCO natural gas pipeline**. This pipeline will entail about 177 miles of new 30 to 42 inch, high-pressure natural gas transmission line and will bisect at least 8 counties in Pennsylvania. The environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with this project pose a grave threat to the integrity and security of our region. You can find the notice in full here: [ELibrary File List](#).

As a citizen, you have a right to demand FERC develop a thorough and complete EIS. Unfortunately, FERC has a history of producing inadequate and substandard analyses of impacts. Now is the time to insist that FERC **fully account** for all the social-economic and environmental consequences of yet another massive natural gas transmission line. What we know from experience is that a full account will show that the only sensible course of action is to **STOP THE PIPELINE**.

#### **CITIZEN DEMANDS –**

- FERC consistently refuses to address the full cumulative consequences of expanding interstate transmission pipelines. A recent circuit court decision has found this to be inadequate and unlawful: ([http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/30B6F48600A85C1E85257CEF004E34F1/\\$file/13-1015-1496336.pdf](http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/30B6F48600A85C1E85257CEF004E34F1/$file/13-1015-1496336.pdf)). **DEMAND** that FERC account for the **increased upstream drilling activity**, and ultimate **climate instability**, that will result from expanding natural gas transmission capacity!
- FERC is required to develop an “alternatives analysis” that considers other options besides the construction of the proposed pipeline. **DEMAND** an alternatives analysis that includes decentralized power generation (a model based upon private homeowner and community solar panels and wind turbines).
- FERC has a history of ignoring the full impacts associated with fragmenting interior forest and creating new forest edge environments. **DEMAND** that FERC include 300 feet on each side of the pipeline as acreage impacted WHEREVER the pipeline crosses interior forest!
- FERC has repeatedly allowed the pipeline companies to avoid paying for replanting of removed forest vegetation when “temporary workspaces” (often another 60 feet of right-of-way width) are cleared. **DEMAND** that FERC require a full restoration and replanting plan for EACH forest area “temporarily” denuded!
- FERC often requires that agricultural soils be separated, stockpiled, and replaced during pipeline construction. However, they devalue and destroy forest soils, despite the inherent fragility of these resources. **DEMAND** that FERC require the pipeline company fully protect ALL soil systems.

- FERC consistently fails to provide for adequate and comprehensive invasive species control. **DEMAND** that FERC require the same level of invasive suppression in both wetland and upland systems for the ENTIRE service life of the pipeline AND for newly created forest edge habitat adjacent to the maintained right-of-way!
- FERC repeatedly allows open trenching of small and medium size streams during pipeline construction. Yet they require directional drilling under LARGE streams. This preferential treatment of watercourses is arbitrary and ultimately damaging to watershed health. The cumulative linear footage of water crossings involving smaller streams is potentially orders of magnitude greater than that associated with one or two larger water bodies. **DEMAND** that FERC require directional drilling during all stream crossings!
- FERC allows pipeline companies to permanently maintain and mow a right-of-way width of 50 feet in upland systems. Yet they restrict the width to 10 foot in wetlands. There is no ecological rationale behind this arbitrary difference in right-of-way width. If a smaller right-of-way is possible for wetlands, it is possible for uplands. **DEMAND** that FERC respect the private property rights of upland land owners!

#### **HOW TO FILE?**

Citizen comments are due on or before August 18, 2014. We encourage you to submit your comments electronically using the “eComment” feature located on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link “Documents and Filings.”

#### **WHY TO FILE?**

FERC has a long history of advancing virtually every project seeking approval. Hence, it is unrealistic to expect FERC to deny the Atlantic Sunrise Expansion solely based upon community concerns or the comments of private citizens. If, however, citizens **DEMAND** that FERC develop a thorough and comprehensive EIS that addresses the full spectrum of socio-economic and environmental impacts associated with this pipeline, it will become apparent to both FERC and Williams Partners that this project is cost-prohibitive.

In other words, if FERC took seriously its responsibility to assess the actual impacts of the proposed Atlantic Sunrise expansion, it would become clear that Williams' Partners' intent is to externalize the risks and the cost onto the taxpayers and communities who will bear the environmental, health, property value and divisive community impacts of this project--but enjoy few if any of the benefits.

**The only sound conclusion to draw is not that the pipeline can be moved, relocated, made more efficient. But that the pipeline should not and must not be built.**

### **STOP THE PIPELINE!!!!**

#### **FERC's Public Scoping Meetings: 7-10PM; Williams Partner's Open House, 6-7PM**

8.4.14: - Millersville University, Student Memorial Center, 21 South George Street  
Millersville, PA 17551.

**8.5.14: - Lebanon Valley College, Lutz Hall, 101 North College Ave.  
Anneville, PA 17003.**

8.6.14: - Bloomsburg University, Haas Center for the Arts, 400 East Second Street  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815.

8.7.14: Lake Lehmon High School, 1128 Old Route 115, Dallas, PA 18612