

October 16, 2014

**Resolution #2014.103**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM IN OPPOSITION  
TO PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW GAS PIPELINE  
BY PENNEAST PIPELINE COMPANY, LLC**

**WHEREAS**, PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC, a joint project of AGL Resources, NJR Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of New Jersey Resources, South Jersey Industries, and UGI Energy Services, a subsidiary of UGI Corporation, has proposed the construction of a new pipeline for the transfer and delivery of natural gas extracted from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed pipeline corridor will be approximately one hundred (100) miles long and thirty to thirty six inches in diameter, crossing through Pennsylvania into New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, as currently proposed, the pipeline will cut through Hunterdon County, causing or contributing to the following:

1. The proposed pipeline will disturb numerous properties that were purchased with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Funds, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Funds, Hunterdon County Open Space Funds, Municipal Open Space Funds, Federal Farm and Ranch Protection Program Funds, New Jersey Water Supply Authority Funds, as well as other properties that are preserved through conservation easements and/or deed restrictions against development; and
2. The proposed route will crossover and adversely affect many properties that were preserved by non-profit land conservation and protection organizations including the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the D&R Greenway, and the Hunterdon Land Trust; and
3. The taxpayers of the State of New Jersey, Hunterdon County and its Municipalities, as well as private foundations, individuals, farmers, and landowners have invested millions of dollars to preserve these properties in perpetuity; and
4. The proposed route of the buried pipeline will crossover many C- I streams, including the Wickecheoke Creek and nine of its tributaries, the Alexauken Creek and five of its tributaries, and one tributary and headwater area of the Lockatong Creek; and
5. The proposed route will adversely impact pristine woods, forests, vernal pools and will cause harm and damage to wildlife and plant life. Removal of trees and vegetation along creeks, streams and waterways will result in the loss of sediment filtration, thereby causing sediment buildup in these waterways and the waterways that flow into the Delaware and Raritan Canal, a source of drinking water for millions of New Jersey residents; and
6. The proposed route and the construction of pump stations along the way will reduce groundwater recharge and change groundwater flow patterns resulting in negative impacts to local aquifers which serve as the sole source of drinking water for many residents in Hunterdon County; and

7. The proposed route of the pipeline will disturb the habitats of species protected by the Endangered Species Act, such as eagles, the long tailed salamander, and various plants and other animals protected by federal and state law; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed pipeline will cause damage to local residents by raising safety concerns, lowering property values, impacting farms and residences, and generally degrading their quality of life and the historic, environmental and cultural resources they have dedicated themselves to protect; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Government, State of New Jersey, Hunterdon County and its Municipalities, including the Township of Bethlehem, have acknowledged the importance of preserving the remaining open space and farmlands, have completed numerous efforts to protect these resources including enacting Regulations, Ordinances, Open Space Preservation Plans and Master Plans, and have expended millions of dollars to implement these preservation efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed pipeline corridor will disturb many of the aforementioned preserved properties, thereby negating all of the above preservation efforts; and


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Bethlehem, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

- (1) The Township of Bethlehem hereby objects to the routing of the pipeline through preserved farmlands and preserved open space. The construction and operation of the pipeline on these properties will significantly damage C-J protected streams, wildlife habitat, existing farming operations, and degrade the character and quality of life in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline corridor; and
- (2) The Township of Bethlehem hereby requests that the pipeline corridor be realigned along previously disturbed areas, such as roadways and preexisting utility corridors; and
- (3) The Township of Bethlehem hereby petitions the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to develop a Marcellus Gas Transportation Policy to encourage the use of existing utility rights of way for new pipeline corridors and discourage the construction of pipelines through virgin forests, farmlands and preserved lands; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Municipal Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the following parties: PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC; AGL Resources; NJR Pipeline Company; New Jersey Resources; South Jersey Industries; UGI Energy Services; UGI Corporation; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; New Jersey Department of Agriculture; Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders; New Jersey Water Supply Authority; New Jersey Conservation Foundation; D&R Greenway; Hunterdon Land Trust; State Senator Michael J. Doherty; Assemblyman Erik Peterson; and Assemblyman John DiMaio.

  
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Paul Muir, Mayor

ATTEST:

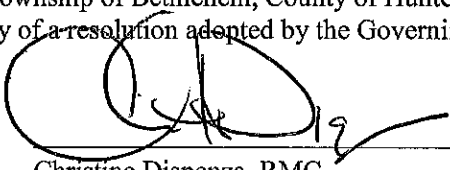
  
Christine Dispenza, Municipal Clerk

CERTIFICATIONS:

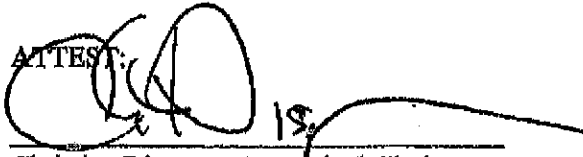
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Robert G. Kenny, Esq., Township Attorney

CERTIFICATION

I, Christine Dispenza, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Bethlehem, County of Hunterdon, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Governing Body at a meeting held on October 16, 2014.

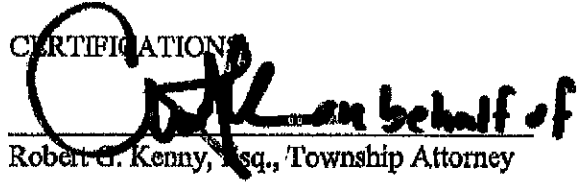
  
Christine Dispenza, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

ATTEST:



Christine Dispenza, Municipal Clerk

CERTIFICATION:



on behalf of

Robert G. Kenny, Esq., Township Attorney

CERTIFICATION

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Christine Dispenza, RMC  
Municipal Clerk