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For Immediate Release

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**Experts Charge FERC with Misleading Public on PennEast
Independent Analysis and Expert Reports
*Document the Agency's False Claims, Incorrect Information***

Bristol, PA: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has filed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the PennEast pipeline project that is inaccurate and misleading, according to comments filed by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Citing multiple instances of missing or inaccurate information, DRN, working with independent analysts, finds that FERC's mistakes are so egregious that they violate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

"The DEIS issued by FERC is filled with key data gaps, misrepresentations, misinformation, missing information, inaccurate information, false information, and conflicting information," said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper** and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN). "The willful blindness and ignorance of science, facts and law compiled in this DEIS is so overwhelming that in any other profession it would be grounds for firing."

In preparation for the PennEast comment period, the DRN fielded investigations from independent experts and received assistance from dozens of volunteers. Following a robust period of research, aided by a [new app for data collection](#),* today's filing from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's asserts:

"[T]he DEIS issued by FERC cannot be said to fulfill its legal obligations pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), that a new or supplemental Complete DEIS with associated comment period and public hearings is required, and that absent taking such a step FERC will be in violation of the law."

"The DEIS is filled with key data gaps, misrepresentations, misinformation, missing information, inaccurate information, false information, and conflicting information and is likewise based on submissions from PennEast that are filled with data gaps,

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misrepresentations, misinformation, missing information, inaccurate information, false information, and conflicting information. The quality of the DEIS is so poor that it cannot support any conclusion whatsoever, other than there is a need for a supplemental DEIS that is subject to the rigors of the public process prior to advancement to the final EIS stage.”

“In addition, it is clear that this DEIS cannot be relied upon by any government agency, not FERC, not the US Fish & Wildlife Service, not the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, not the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, not the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, not the PA Department of Environmental Protection, not the Delaware River Basin Commission for evaluation or decision-making purposes. And for any agency to do so would subject them to successful legal challenge.”

Adds van Rossum, “Ultimately, the failures of this Draft Environmental Impact Statement are so numerous that FERC has also failed to uphold their federal obligation to thoroughly evaluate the implications of new pipeline projects. Coupled with the unreasonably short comment period and pseudo-public hearings, the release of this document further demonstrates that FERC is indifferent to the needs of our communities or the importance of our healthy environments. And as an ongoing result of FERC’s unassailable bias for the pipeline industry, these new developments further establish that FERC is a rogue agency that needs investigation, oversight and dramatic reform.”

Critical facts cited in the Delaware Riverkeeper Network Comment that demonstrate the inaccuracies and deficiencies in the DEIS include:

- The PennEast pipeline will likely induce the drilling of 3,000 new fracked gas wells in Pennsylvania (from a combination of wells that have been drilled but are not yet producing and wells not yet drilled) in Northeast Pennsylvania, in Bradford, Susquehanna, Lycoming, and Tioga counties.
- In Carbon County, 560 people live within 2 miles of the proposed compressor station. From existing experience we can anticipate “504 people experiencing odor events, 398 people experiencing respiratory impacts, 325 people experiencing sinus problems, and 218 people experiencing sleep disturbances and/or severe headaches.”
- The additional emission of CO₂ caused by a PennEast Pipeline would cost the public \$252.4 million annually.
- Using “conservative assumptions, the Kidder compressor station would reduce the value of 43 properties by a total of \$1.9 million dollars.”
- While 75% of the stream crossings will be undertaken using open cut methods, only 26% of the 189 road crossings will be open cut with horizontal directional drilling used to avoid impacts on 74% of the roadways crossed – demonstrating that both FERC and PennEast place a higher priority on avoiding disturbance of roadways than protecting streams, including streams of the highest quality in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.
- The single largest land use to be disturbed in Pennsylvania is forest -- 59% of the pipeline length in Pennsylvania.

- The PennEast pipeline would cause an initial loss of \$7.3 million in ecosystem services during a one year construction period. For each year the pipeline is in operation, the pipeline would induce an additional loss of \$2.4 in ecosystem services due to conversion of land in the ROW. Land converted for use as permanent pipeline related infrastructure would mean an additional loss of \$218,200 each year.
- Construction of the PennEast pipeline would result in a loss of \$158.3 to \$176.0 million in property value in the right of way and evacuation zone.
- Shallow bedrock is a common feature along 33 miles and 302 sections of the route that likely would require blasting (Table G-3) - 69% of Hunterdon Co., 35% of Northampton Co., 28% of Carbon Co., 25% of Luzerne County, and 23% of Mercer County have shallow bedrock.
- Spot checks and field-truthing indicate inadequate and incomplete mapping of sensitive wetlands along the proposed ROW. Along one 0.5 mile of the proposed route in sensitive State Gamelands, at least 12 vernal pool complexes or groundwater seeps were identified while PennEast tables only indicate 2 vernal pool habitats along the same proposed route and no groundwater seeps.
- 72% of the proposed pipeline alignment in New Jersey and 23% in Pennsylvania has not yet been field investigated for wetlands and other water resources. Investigation is also incomplete for vernal pools; in Pennsylvania, survey work is 21% **incomplete**; in New Jersey, it is 74% **incomplete**.
- FERC's statement that "*there are no private water supply wells or springs located within 150 feet of the pipeline construction workspace in Pennsylvania*" (DEIS, page ES-5) is false. Delaware Riverkeeper Network experts have "identified properties and specific landowners in Pennsylvania where there are (confirmed), or where there are likely to be, springs or drinking water wells located within 150 feet of the proposed pipeline construction workspace."
- The DEIS fails to fulfill the mandates of the new Counsel on Environmental Quality's guidance regarding consideration of the greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

A copy of the comment along with expert reports can be found at: <http://bit.ly/DRNreDEIS>

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*App link: <http://bit.ly/DRNPipelineApp>