



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Potential Freshwater Wetlands Permit Violations by Tennessee Gas Pipeline Construction Reported to NJ Environmental Agency**

*Sussex County, NJ* – On May 17, 2013, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) submitted a report to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection detailing a number of potential violations by the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP) of the New Jersey Freshwater Wetlands permit issued for the Northeast Upgrade Pipeline Project (NEUP).

A number of construction status reports submitted by TGP to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission indicate that TGP is conducting construction activities within restricted areas past a May 1, 2013 prohibition placed on construction in order to protect important freshwater species and streams. These activities include, but are not limited to, grading, debris removal, and chipping. The status reports were verified by DRN staff who performed field visits to the area of Sussex County where the construction is taking place. DRN is continuing to compile evidence of potential violations and is awaiting a response from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. According to **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper**, “TGP is already devastating critical ecosystems, cutting through public and private lands, and imposing irreparable harm to our communities – for them to increase the size of their footprint and this heavy burden on our region by violating the law would be unconscionable. TGP is strictly obligated to abide by the terms and conditions of their state permits. To the extent that they have failed to do so, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection must take swift action to prevent further pollution to the streams and wetlands of the basin.”

The NEUP is a large-scale 40 mile pipeline upgrade project that adds 32 inch diameter looping sections of pipe to TGP’s existing 300 pipeline. In the Delaware River Basin the project spans both New Jersey and

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Pennsylvania, and will cut through over 80 waterbodies to carry fracked gas from the Marcellus shale region to other markets ([http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Factsheets/KMTennGasPipelinemap\\_091112.jpg](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Factsheets/KMTennGasPipelinemap_091112.jpg) overview map).

DRN is also currently challenging the NEUP in D.C. Circuit Court alleging that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission improperly issued approval for the project.

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Read the letter here:

[http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Letters/05-17-2013\\_ltr\\_to\\_NJ\\_DEP\\_re\\_NEUP\\_Violations.pdf](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/resources/Letters/05-17-2013_ltr_to_NJ_DEP_re_NEUP_Violations.pdf)