

Joint Press Release

***Delaware Riverkeeper Network = New Jersey Highlands Coalition
NJ Sierra Club***

For Immediate Release

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Request for Stay Filed Against NEUP Pipeline

Washington, DC: A petition for an Emergency Stay to halt the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's Northeast Upgrade Project (TGP NEUP) was filed today by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, NJ Highlands Coalition and the NJ Sierra Club. The Petition asks the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, a federal court, to issue a stay of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Order and Certification issued on May 29, 2012 as well as its Notice to Proceed with Construction issued for the TGP NEUP on December 14, 2012. Petitioners are represented by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's attorneys and the Environmental Law Clinic at Columbia Law School.

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and head of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network calls the project "a perfect demonstration of the devastation that happens when a federal agency, in this case the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, fails to properly enforce the laws intended to protect our citizens and country from unnecessary harms. The FERC has clearly allied itself with the pipeline companies it is supposed to be regulating, putting the public at a tremendous disadvantage as we seek to ensure our communities and environments are protected from unjustified and unnecessary harm. With this project FERC is harming our communities in three ways: (1) cutting through residential communities, mature forests, and pristine streams and wetlands, causing increased water and air pollution as well as increased water runoff contributing to flooding and drought; (2) encouraging increased drilling and fracking across Pennsylvania and beyond; and (3) continuing the bad precedent of allowing pipeline companies to segment their projects while FERC itself fails to fulfill the Environmental Impact Statement mandates of federal law."

"The Sierra Club understands how extremely destructive this pipeline will be to one of the most sensitive places in New Jersey and the country. This pipeline will not only destroy precious open space and parkland but will threaten the drinking water supply for millions of people. This pipeline will promote fracking and air pollution from dirty power plants and that is why we are

going to court," said **Jeff Tittel, Director of the NJ Sierra Club**. "As a lifelong resident of Ringwood, I know how devastating this pipeline would be to important environmental resources and that is why we have to seek a stay to prevent the pipeline from going forward. We have to do the job FERC did not do."

If the Petition for Stay is successful, TGP would be forced to put tree felling and construction on hold until the Court of Appeals completes its review of petitioners' challenge to FERC's Order and Certification under the Natural Gas Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

"TGP's recently completed 300 Line pipeline project had generated dozens of construction related FERC violations, TGP has not followed through in its restoration obligations and many questions remain unresolved about its mitigation techniques. How can TGP be allowed to start another project through our most sensitive water producing lands?" asks **Julia Somers, Executive Director of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition**.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's Northeast Upgrade Project (NEUP) is an interstate transmission line upgrade project. The NEUP is the final pipeline upgrade project in TGP's multi-stage 300 Line upgrade project, although TGP has tried to disguise the interdependence of its 300 Line upgrade project components to avoid critical environmental regulation and oversight. The project includes pipeline drilling activities under the Delaware River, significant new grading and clearing of previously undisturbed forested land and steep slopes, 90 stream crossings, 136 wetland crossings, and 450 acres of land development within the Delaware River watershed alone. Highpoint State Park and Delaware State Forest are among the public lands that will be damaged by the project.

Currently, the western leg of the 300 Line runs from compressor station 219 in Mercer County, Pennsylvania to compressor station 313 in Potter County and consists of a 24-inch-diameter pipeline with completed 30-inch-diameter loops along its entire length. Within the last 24 months, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company has applied to FERC for approval of five interdependent pipeline looping and compressor station upgrade projects that together will compose the Eastern Leg of the 300 Line, starting at compressor station 313 in Potter County, Pennsylvania and stretching east to a delivery point in Mahwah, New Jersey.

In addition to the Petition for Stay, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Responsible Drilling Alliance are challenging permits issued for the project by the State of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

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