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REGARDING: APPLICANT: Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company LLC
PROJECT: Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project
FILE NUMBERS: NJDEP File No. 0000-01-1001.3 FWW 180001 Individual Permit
NJDEP HEARING DATE: 11/5/18

The NESE Project will have both direct and indirect impacts to wetlands during construction and over the lifetime of the Project if it is built. Constructing the Madison Loop and Compressor Station 206 could have indirect impacts on the public water supply, propagation of fish & wildlife, recreation, and businesses. The integrity of the aquatic resources is at risk from potential discharges into the wetlands from construction as well as from potential leaks if NESE becomes operational.

The NESE Project does not give anything to New Jersey, and it does not forward State goals to move toward renewable energy. Looking at science, research, prior experiences with pipeline projects, and a need for Williams/Transco to follow the letter of New Jersey's regulations, the application for a Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit should be denied by the NJDEP.

Key reasons why the application for a Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit should be denied:

(1) QUESTIONABLE NEED

- NESE would deliver more than twice as much additional natural gas to New York City than it needs, even if it achieves the unlikely goal of converting all of its residential and commercial buildings' oil use to natural gas.
- There is no "compelling public need" for this. The Project does not serve an essential health or safety need, and public health and safety benefit is not shown.

(2) APPLICATION IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES

A. The NESE Project will have direct & indirect impacts on wetlands.

Williams/Transco's NESE Project will impact a significant amount of wetland in New Jersey – over 41 acres, including approximately 20 acres of forested wetland. In addition, the NESE Project will remove 35.3 acres of upland forest and the impacts on forested uplands will be long term or permanent because trees would take up to 50 years or longer to become reestablished and would not be allowed to become reestablished directly over the pipeline.

B. Williams/Transco did not first attempt to avoid wetlands.

- In choosing a site for the proposed Compressor Station 206, the final five sites that were considered all included wetlands.
- The Madison Loop is planned to cross eighteen (18) wetlands. Of these, six (6) are classified as "exceptional" resources, two (2) are "ordinary", and ten (10) are "intermediate".

C. Construction could create conditions for algal blooms in the area around Cheesequake Creek.

D. Drilling fluid release from HDD could contaminate wetlands and water sources.

E. Madison Loop construction is planned for areas with known toxic groundwater and soil.

- Road Department Garage Area 3-1 near MP 9.5 Williams/Transco wrote in their application (3/27/18 – Resource Report 7. Pg. 7-30): "Because this property is relatively close to the Project facilities, is a known contaminated site, and has an unclear remedial history, it is possible that contamination associated with this property could be present in the soil in the vicinity of the Project facilities." This site was listed as an NJDEP Site Remediation Program PI ID # 012743 and as UST and historic fill – arsenic.

- Global Sanitary Landfill
- E.I. Dupont Denemours & Co. site and ongoing remediation activities
- Morgan Ordnance Depot (with contaminated soil and possible unexploded munitions below ground)

F. Madison Loop is planned to go through areas with acid-producing clay soil.

- Digging exposes the clay to air that then produces sulfuric acid.
- Plants and trees have great difficulty growing in soils on these sites, and this leads to troubles with stability of steep slopes and runoff.
- Acid-producing soil is more corrosive to pipelines.

G. Madison Loop goes through foraging & nesting habitat for threatened & endangered species. The NESE project would harm or change habitat for threatened and endangered species.

- bald eagles
- osprey
- black-crowned night-heron

(3) THE FRESHWATER WETLANDS INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION IS NOT COMPLETE.

- NJDEP has issued deficiency letters to Williams/Transco for their June 19, 2018 permit applications on July 18, 2018 and September 12, 26, and 27, 2018. These letters identify information needed by the NJDEP to consider the application to be technically complete and, therefore, complete for review.
- Additionally, Williams/Transco has not provided documentation for ownership or agreement to use the area needed for the suction/discharge and tie-in piping at compressor station 206. Williams/Transco has not obtained an agreement to use Block 5.02, Lot 23 for the suction & discharge and tie-in piping for Compressor Station 206. This site has wetlands, and documentation from Williams/Transco indicates that they are still “in negotiation” with Trap Rock Quarry/Stavola for an agreement to expand their ROW on this property.

(4) APPLICATION DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RULES.

- Both the Compressor Station 206 and Madison Loop are considered to be “major developments” under the Stormwater Management rules.
- The NJDEP issued a Technical Deficiency Letter on September 27, 2018 that requires Williams/Transco to consider relocating and/or redesigning portions of the NESE Project related to stormwater management.
- Even though they say they have complied with the rules, Williams/Transco has yet to meet these standards and – based on the actual design and proposed location of the stormwater facility at Compressor Station 206 – will not be able to do so.
- Williams/Transco wants to build their compressor station on hard diabase in a high water table area, and it won’t work.
- The full application as well as the Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit Application cannot be considered to be in compliance with the Stormwater Management rules.

In light of the above, I am requesting that the NJDEP deny Williams/Transco’s FWW permit application.

Sincerely,

Name:
 Address:
 Town/City:
 State:
 Zip:
 Email: