

FERC:

Please consider the following with regard to the proposed PennEast pipeline,

Pre-filing Docket number PF15-1:

The West Amwell Township Planning Board wishes to convey our strident opposition to the proposed PennEast pipeline.

While we favor strongly the development of domestic energy resources, and support strenuously the free enterprise system, there are numerous aspects about this project with which we object.

Specifically:

- 1) The proposed route appears to have been chosen with little or no regard to the proximity of schools, emergency facilities, housing, wetlands, woodlands, historic structures/features, et cetera. The Planning Board strives to ensure that we leave West Amwell in better condition than we found it, and this project fails this simple test.
- 2) In most every aspect of governance home rule continues to be eroded, being slowly and systematically replaced by centralized control. The fact that we have so little control over such important decisions is aggravating, demoralizing, and causes many intelligent, caring citizens to eschew public service. Were it not for the fact that the pipeline crosses the Delaware River, it would have appropriate local input and control.
- 3) The threat of the exercise of Eminent Domain to secure land for a for-profit enterprise flies in the face of the free enterprise system. While we recognize that there exists a need for government to intervene in rare cases where intransigence stymies the public good, we feel that this project does not rise to that level.
- 4) The virginal nature of this pipeline should dictate even greater scrutiny. History shows that once a route has been established additional pipelines can and will follow. West Amwell is a rural community of mostly small farms with two large and two small housing developments. The proposed route has drawn objection across the demographic spectrum – from full time farmers to metropolitan commuters who come home to sleep in their tract homes.

For the record:

Certain groups and individuals have voiced concerns over the means by which the gas is produced and the ultimate disposition of the gas. The Planning Board takes the position that the means of production has no bearing on the pipeline and that the gas is the property of the producer and as such they are free to dispose of it as they see fit.

The Planning Board operates fairly and openly, treating others as we would like to be treated. Notwithstanding, the regulatory framework of this project surely renders any application that we might hear to be pro-forma.

In conclusion it is our recommendation that the project as constituted be denied.

Robert E. Tomenchok Jr.

Chairman, West Amwell Planning Board