August 15, 2016

People over Pipeline

Conversation concerning DEP hearing August 22

#1 priority is Aug 22 DEP public hearing concerning Transco’s application for clean water permit. Focus should be how compressor station effects us - our water quality and wetlands.

-No alternatives have been looked at that don’t involve wetlands

-There will be damage to our wetlands and water supply

-Water Quality, wetlands and the ecosystem are affected when:

-temperature of water changes

-tributary sediment changes

-volume of water changes

-flow of water changes

-ph of water changes

-surrounding trees, brush and vegetation are cut

-the topography of the surrounding area is changed

-storm water outflow is changed, diverted or concentrated

-Life (plant and animal) that exist in and near water, wetlands and ecosystem will not be the same, some types of life will be killed.

-Transco has not documented existing conditions of wetlands, flood zones, wells, septics, streams (Sucker Run and Blacks Creek), soils and hydrology. How can they remediate when what is being destroyed/altered is not known?

-FERC set a condition with Transco that Transco should avoid permanent damage to the wetlands. FERC said don’t build in wetlands. If you do it must be with the approval of the DEP. Yet water quality and wetlands are affected. Transco had 4 possible sites they were going to place a compressor station yet they picked the ONLY site which has a wetland impact because this site is the most economical.

-Hydrologists have reviewed Transco’s plan. It is one of the worse applications seen. Too much is on too small a site – the site is not sufficiently sized.

-The Transco application to DEP mentions nothing about the effect of dewatering, after dewatering conditions do not return to original state

-If we find that our wells/septic are contaminated or failed after the compressor station is in place we would need well and septic testing evidence. Often three separate tests are performed during different seasons to eliminate the seasonal water effects. Has Transo thoroughly evaluated the affected wells and septics to ensure they will not harm them

-Has Transco evaluated the ecosystem over season to determine the effects of the compressor station and properly mitigate changes and destruction of the ecosystem

-DEP stated in a letter that they were working with Transco to get the dewatering permit-since when does the public entity DEP work against the affected citizens to destroy their water supply in order to assist a privately held business, for an unconventionally drilled (fracked) gas system that is not needed. DEP should be protecting us - our water supply and environment.

-Water is going to be a higher priced commodity than gas/oil. Why are we sacrificing a higher priced commodity for a lower priced commodity??

-There is no substitute for water, there are many substitutes for unconventionally drilled (fracked) gas

Other stuff

-Legal Appeals to BPU hearings are coming through now

-County continues to be fighting NJNG on road openings

AECOM’s latest revised compressor station plan shows the aerial view of the compressor station proposed buildings. This includes a second compressor and a septic field, among other items. Please go to Chesterfield Twp to see these plans first hand, if someone could get them scanned for distribution that would be great (please ask Caryn, Alex or any of the town officials if they can do this ASAP)

HELP – if you know much information about Sucker Run and Blacks Creek and what you believe the effects of dewatering and the construction will be on these creeks. Please share with us and present your information to DEP.