



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Van Doren To FERC: Take Draft PennEast ‘Environmental Assessment’ Back To Drawing Board

Hunterdon County Freeholder Board Director Shaun C. Van Doren recently submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) comments on Penn East’s proposed amendment to build the pipeline in two phases, citing environmental and economic concerns, calling for a re-examination the draft ‘Environmental Assessment’ (EA) that declares a finding of no significant impact.

Van Doren stated, “FERC needs to take the draft EA back to the drawing board. Using the draft Assessment to declare a finding of ‘no significant impact’ is inaccurate and a disservice to the public. There is no mention in the EA of the affect on residential property rights, preserved farmland, and protected environmental assets and resources.”

In a recent letter to FERC, prior to the September 2nd deadline for comments, Van Doren pointed out, “the proposed amendment falls well short of establishing the major environmental and economic impacts of the project and the draft EA only considers a portion of the changes, not the project in its entirety.”

Van Doren urged the Commission to reconsider the Environmental Assessment and to include more than the Church Street interconnection in Bethlehem Township, Pennsylvania in the assessment.

“PennEast is using the so-called small bites strategy where, as each incremental segment is approved, the company will then rely upon that previous approval for its argument to proceed further because of economic investment,” the Freeholder Director wrote.

The Hunterdon County Freeholder Board has opposed the pipeline plan since its inception, with particular concern for the abuse of the eminent domain process and the potential negative affect on preserved farmland and residential property values.