

Stephen M. Tomasik
DEC - Division of Environmental Permits
625 Broadway, 4th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-1750

January __, 2015

Application ID: 0-9999-00181/00009 - Water Quality Certification
Application ID: 0-9999-00181/00010 - Freshwater Wetlands
Application ID: 0-9999-00181/00011 - Water Withdrawal
Application ID: 0-9999-00181/00012 - Excavation and Fill in Navigable Waters
Application ID: 0-9999-00181/00013 - Stream Disturbance
Application ID: 4-4350-00008/00012 - Air Title V

Dear Mr. Tomasik:

Consider the fact that the Constitution Pipeline's request for approval of a 401 Water Quality certificate under the Clean Water Act will hand over to the gas industry, whose only mission is economic profit, the DEC's responsibility to protect our water, and will dismiss the DEC's mission of ensuring the health and safety of the people of Region 4. The DEC is not in the business of providing economic opportunities at the expense of our environment; therefore, our citizens, our wildlife, our birds, our fish, our woods, hills, streams, lakes, etc. will be greatly threatened should you choose to issue this 401 permit to Constitution Pipeline.

Former DEC commissioners have stated that the current staffing and funding patterns of the Agency do not ensure enough resources to enforce the present regulations. In a report, prepared by the Office of Budget and Policy Analysis, December 2014, issues are raised concerning the reduction in funding over the past decade and projections of budget reductions to continue for the next three years. Full time staff losses in the Air and Water Quality Management area have amounted to a reduction of 16.8%. These reductions have not been accompanied by the hiring of additional staff or additional funding.

The impact of these limited resources will translate into a lack of monitoring and implementing of the current and new regulations, enforcement, and compliance. Failure to implement permit conditions will be a result. The raiding of the two major funds dedicated to the environment in excess of half a billion dollars to pay for other state budget deficits has left the DEC with little resources to actively implement the Clean Air and Water Acts.

As a concerned landowner, taxpayer, and voter, I am committed to the value of government in the role of providing the right of citizens to clean air and water and expect no less than the fulfillment of that role by the DEC. Therefore, you must deny the 401 water quality certificate or hold Adjudicatory Hearings for this project.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name

Address