

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:

The Constitution Pipeline's *greenfield* project will cut down tens of thousands of trees in a 150 foot swath through mature or near-mature forest. The DEIS documents that the right of way will cut through 36 miles of un-fragmented woodlands, affecting over 300 interior forested tracts. These forests cover ridge tops and steep slopes and are often the last remaining large forest tracts in the area. They are not only a special habitat for endangered animal and bird species, but a natural water purifier for New York's surface waters and aquifers. Changes like deforestation degrade headwater systems and affect streams, lakes, and rivers downstream. In addition, forests are an important link to lowering our carbon footprint.

The Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct Project- the Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) is planning to follow the same route as Constitution – cutting their own right of way parallel to Constitution's, through the same forested areas. They also plan to build several new compressor stations. One is in Schoharie – the same Town where Williams is currently asking permission for the Wright Compressor station to be expanded. This makes no sense and it is a double whammy to our fragile global climate.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality recently came out with a draft guidance report to federal agencies on evaluating climate change impacts in connection with FERC projects. This comes at a time that you are contemplating destroying large tracts of forests along Constitution's proposed route, while simultaneously allowing new compressor stations to be built, and existing ones expanded. I ask that the New York State DEC take into account what the carbon emissions will be from the loss of all these forests which are a natural carbon sink, while increasing at the same time New York's natural gas infrastructure with its inherent air pollution. This project will not only negatively affect our local ecosystems, but global climate change as well. You must deny the 401 water quality certificate or hold Adjudicatory Hearings for this project.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name & Address