

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PILGRIM PIPELINE

WHEREAS, the Pilgrim Pipeline Company (“Pilgrim”) is proposing to build a new bi-directional pipeline through the Rockaway River Watershed that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline will carry oil extracted from North Dakota’s Bakken shale through the process of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, an extreme method of oil and gas extraction that depletes and despoils clean water resources, creates toxic air emissions and radioactive waste, and contributes to the climate change crisis by releasing large quantities of methane gas into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, in February the *Wall Street Journal* compared oil from 86 locations around the world and found Bakken crude oil to be the most explosive; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Denville (“Township”) is concerned about the hazard the project may create due to the nature and volume of the highly flammable oil flowing through the pipeline and its proposed route, which crosses through several communities in the watershed. These communities will be in the “impact radius” should an explosion or spill occur; and

WHEREAS, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (“PHMSA”) only has 135 inspectors to oversee 2.6 million miles of pipeline, and only a fifth of that pipeline system has been inspected by PHMSA or its state partners since 2006; and

WHEREAS, the potential for a pipeline explosion could harm hundreds of people, and so we express grave concerns about this project negatively affecting the health, safety, and welfare of residents and businesses within the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Rockaway River Watershed is located entirely within the area subject to the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act to protect against the depletion of water quality and quantity as the region provides drinking water to 5.4 million state residents; and

WHEREAS, many watershed residents and businesses depend on ground water and public community water systems for water supply and continued protection of these resources is of critical concern to the Township; and

WHEREAS, the proposed route of the Pilgrim Pipeline would cross the wellhead protection areas of East Hanover and Montville Townships, the Rockaway and Highlands Sole Source Aquifers and the Jersey City major water supply transmission line in Parsippany-Troy Hills Township; and

WHEREAS, protection of the water supplies and resources within the Rockaway River Watershed is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact; and

WHEREAS, location of such a pipeline through a portion of the Rockaway River Watershed poses a risk to the natural resources and water supplies, which the Township is seeking to protect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Council of the Township of Denville, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline.
2. The Township calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, proposal, surveying or construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline through the Rockaway River Watershed.
3. Because this project will traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural areas and the resources of the Watershed and the Highlands Region, the Township requests a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the myriad environmental consequences of the proposed project.
4. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the following:

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie
Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen
Congressman Leonard Lance
Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney
Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto
New Jersey Legislative Representatives within the Rockaway River Watershed
Municipalities within the Rockaway River Watershed
New Jersey Highlands Council
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

BY ORDER OF THE MUNICIPAL
COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
DENVILLE

I, Kathryn M. Bowditch, Municipal Clerk for the Township of Denville do hereby certify the above to be a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted by the Municipal Council of the Township of Denville at their regular Council meeting held on June 23, 2015.

Certification Date:

Kathryn M. Bowditch, RMC
Municipal Clerk