

DEP Comments on Air Quality
Monday • August 14, 2017
Farm & Home Center
Lancaster, PA

My name is Tim Spiese. I'm with Lancaster Against Pipelines, but tonight I'm here with friends from organizations up-and-down the proposed pipeline corridor. We stand together in solidarity with one another & with our neighbors all across this great state who are fed up with business as usual at the PA DEP.

Time after time, the DEP has demonstrated that it prioritizes gas industry profits over the health and safety of Pennsylvania's people and natural environment.

As we speak, fracked gas projects in this state are polluting our air, poisoning our water, dividing our forests, and selling out our children's future—all for short-term profits & short-sighted political gain. Just ask our neighbors along the Mariner East 2 who can't drink their own water, because the DEP too-hastily issued permits for a project that has already resulted in dozens of toxic spills & contamination incidents.

But you've called this hearing to talk about the Atlantic Sunrise Project. Specifically, we're here to talk about *the DEP's own proposal* to let Williams **further violate** Lancaster County's air—which already exceeds federal and state limits for smog and soot—by allowing **an Oklahoma energy giant** to purchase so-called “emission reduction credits” **from Maryland**. How scandalous for those of us who have to choke down this air every day—but how brilliantly convenient for the billionaires of Williams!

To state the obvious, this proposal makes a mockery of the DEP's mission, which is [and I quote]: “to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment.”

Our state Constitution guarantees that we, the people of Pennsylvania, have a right to clean air and pure water. You, yourselves, admit that the Atlantic Sunrise export-pipeline would push the air we breathe to illegally dangerous levels.

Tonight, let there be no misunderstanding. If you issue permits that allow construction to begin on the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline, we the people of Pennsylvania, with eyes wide open, will sacrifice our physical safety, job security, and financial resources—through relentless, non-violent mass action—to stop construction ourselves.

As for this sham hearing? We've already endured way too many of these spectacles to stomach another. Just two months ago when you held your last ASP hearing in this same room, the industry filled up these seats with shills driving trucks from Texas, Utah,

Tennessee, and West Virginia to pour fracked-up propaganda in your ears. Meanwhile, you sit there in front of us, with those blank faces, through hearing after hearing, as we call on you to fulfill your simple duty to protect our health & safety—often with tears in our eyes & barely controlled rage in our voices.

And yet—you rule for the industry every time. In short, the gas industry owns you—and we're done playing your game. That's why we're walking out of this hearing right now & holding our own event outside those doors. We warmly welcome the media to join us, because it's going to be way more interesting out there!

- MEDICAL MASKS
- SONG: *"They are digging us a hole..."*