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Shell's Falcon Pipeline Raises Red Flags:

Ambridge Reservoir watershed, Montour Trail, marshlands and neighborhoods to be impacted

Ambridge, Pennsylvania – Pittsburgh-based FracTracker Alliance publically released today an environmental assessment and digital maps with details of the route of Shell Pipeline Co.'s Falcon Pipeline that will feed Shell Appalachia's ethylene petrochemical plant in Potter Township, Pa.

Shell recently filed construction permits with the DEP to build a 97-mile pipeline that will feed the Shell Petrochemical Plant. While the FracTracker maps correlate with the pipeline permit application, Shell's application fails to address impacts to people, highly valued land areas and sensitive watersheds, according to environmental groups.

Citizens to Protect the Ambridge Reservoir (CPAR), the Breathe Project and the Ambridge Water Authority have asked the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) to extend the 30-day public comment period, currently underway until Feb. 20, 2018, to 60-days to allow for more time for impacted citizens to review the application. The groups have also requested a public meeting with the DEP in Ambridge to address these concerns.

The pipeline will traverse 22 townships in Pa., West Virginia and Ohio. Should the pipeline explode at any point, multiple areas will be particularly at risk, especially in the "blast zone" which is within 1,000 feet of the pipeline. These areas include: some 550 family homes, 20 businesses, 240 groundwater wells, 12 public parks, 5 schools, 6 daycare centers, major hiking and biking trails including the Montour Trail, 16 emergency response centers and tributaries of the Ambridge Reservoir.

The Falcon Pipeline will cross three high-quality bodies of water in the Ambridge Reservoir watershed, according to FracTracker. Some of these areas are designated as a severe area for soil erosion. This situation constitutes further review by the DEP, says CPAR.

The Ambridge Reservoir supplies water to 70,000 businesses and customers in Beaver and Allegheny counties, including 30,000 customers with drinking water.

Sunoco's Mariner East 2 pipeline has shown that inadequate permitting processes and oversight, lack of adherence to permitted activities on the part of industry and inadequate geotechnical studies at proposed horizontal directional drilling sites (HDDs) can have a catastrophic effect on nearby groundwater wells, streams and wetlands.

"These pipelines have a history of leaking over time, as evidenced by the recent violations record of Mariner 2," says Bob Schmetzer of CPAR. "If these pipelines leak or blow up, the Ambridge Water Authority only has enough water for people to drink for 24 hours."

CPAR has been expressing concern around gas industry activity near the reservoir since 2012. In August 2017, AWA applied for status in the Dept. of Environmental Protection's Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP). "While the DEP designation is in process, the protection isn't expected to be in place for another year," says Schmetzer.

CPAR and Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community have collected more than 4,000 signatures from concerned residents who have expressed concerns about the risks to the reservoir and the lack of transparency on the part of Shell in publically outlining the Falcon pipeline route, particularly as it pertains to sensitive wetlands and drinking water.

Access to the FracTracker Maps:

Project landing page: <https://www.fractracker.org/projects/falcon-public-eia/>

Press release: <https://www.fractracker.org/2018/01/wingspan-falcon-pipeline/>