

# BREATHE PROJECT

The Air We Share

## Messaging on Shell Pipeline Company's Falcon Pipeline

*The people have a right to clean air, pure water and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.*

– Article I, Section 27 of the Pa. state constitution—the Environmental Rights Amendment

**People of [Beaver, Washington, Allegheny County and/or Southwestern Pennsylvania] are standing up for their right to clean air, pure water and a healthy environment, as guaranteed by Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania State Constitution. These rights must be defended every generation. We must remind our stewards of the Commonwealth – elected, appointed, and professional – to remember their duty to protect what the citizens have entrusted into their care:**

1. That Pennsylvania's public natural resources are common property to all of the people, not just special interests.
2. That this common property is not just for people living right now, but for generations to come.

We ask DEP and other agencies to remember this and be good stewards and protect our air, water, and land from contamination from accidents by denying Shell Pipeline the permits to construct the Falcon pipeline.

## CONCERNS

If completed, the 97-mile pipeline is designed to transport more than 107,000 barrels of ethane per day across 22 townships in Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. It will transport ethane separated out at natural gas processing plants in Pa. and Ohio to an ethane processing facility in Beaver County, PA in order to produce plastic pellets for plastic products.

### Reasons the Shell Pipeline Permits Should be DENIED:

1. The pipeline will put water resources at risk:
  - a. The Falcon will cross directly below the service line of Ambridge Reservoir. *The reservoir supplies 6.5 million gallons of water a day to nine townships in Beaver County, PA. This includes drinking water services to 30,000 people.*
  - b. The Falcon will cross tributaries to the Ambridge Water Authority Service Creek watershed 13 times. These feed into three High Quality/ Cold Water Fishes (HQ/CWF) headwater streams of the Ambridge Reservoir.
  - c. These HW/CWF streams also support the endangered Southern Redbelly Dace. On the eastern edge of the watershed, the Falcon will cross the raw water line leading out of the reservoir.
  - d. These pipelines have a history of leaking over time as evidenced by Sunoco's Mariner East 2 pipeline. 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.
  - e. The Ambridge Water Authority (AWA) has stated that the Falcon pipeline location puts the Ambridge Reservoir at risk for contamination.

- f. The pipeline is also within the blast zone of the Beaver County Conservation District, public recreation and wetland areas and private water wells.
  - g. Many homes in the Maronda Farms (Ryan Development Company) development are less than ½ mile from the Falcon Pipeline. According to the Pittsburgh PG, Ryan received \$672,000 for easements on properties. In some cases, the Falcon pipeline runs through backyards and underneath streets. This community is at risk.
2. The pipeline puts people's lives and property at risk. Past industry performance data point to high rates of problems and accidents:
    - a. Pipeline companies have reported \$2.5 billion in property damage as a result of "hazardous liquid" pipeline accidents since 2010. Shell was responsible for 194 pipeline incidents since 2002, totaling some \$183 million in damages.
    - b. Like Mariner East 2, the Falcon pipeline will travel through karst limestone formations that present many unknowns and could cause the pipeline to be situated in areas that are geologically unstable.
    - c. Should the gas pipeline explode at any point, multiple areas will be particularly at risk, especially in the "blast zone" which is within 1,000 feet of either side of the pipeline. These includes the areas stated above: homes, businesses, groundwater wells, public parks, schools, daycares, major hiking and biking trails and the service line and high quality feeder streams of the Ambridge Reservoir.
    - d. Given the fact that the DEP put construction of the ME2 pipeline on hold because of poor pipeline construction practices and sloppy permitting, residents believe prudence and a greater degree of public input and oversight of the proposals in this application are warranted.
    - e. At the very least, the pipeline route be rerouted at least 1000 feet beyond the Ambridge Reservoir Service Line, homes, schools and community centers.
  3. The pipeline and its products and ancillary processing equipment enable the destruction of the planet because of its associated carbon pollution.

Our region is already a major source of industrial carbon pollution. If we don't push back against the gas industry and ancillary developments like pipelines and fracking, we will go down in history as one of the regions that pushed the planet over the edge on Climate Change – and all for the sake of plastic production.

### **Ask the DEP to deny the Shell Falcon Ethane Pipeline permit**

### **QUICK ADDITIONAL FACTS**

#### **Protected Habitats & Species of Concern Related to the Falcon Pipeline**

- More than half (54%) of pipeline construction areas are currently forested or farmland
- Botanical species Purple Rocket and Climbing Fern are located in proximity to workspaces
- The reproductive cycle of the endangered Eastern Hellbender salamander, located in proximity of the pipeline, will be at risk.
- One active Bald Eagle nest and two inactive nests in proximity to workspaces
- Northern Long-eared Bat roost trees discovered as close as 318 feet from workspaces
- Clusters of protected freshwater mussels, coldwater fish, and hellbenders in the path of the Falcon

#### **Cumulative Development & Compounded Risks**

- 20 miles of the Falcon run through under-mined areas; 5.6 miles through active mines
- 18 miles of the Falcon run through surface-mined areas; also coal slurry waste site
- Shares a right-of-way with Mariner West pipeline for 4 miles in Beaver County

- 11 well pads, as well as a compressor station, are within the potential impact radius

#### **Background/ News to Date**

- FracTracker Project landing page: <https://www.fractracker.org/projects/falcon-public-eia>
- [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "Building a Pipeline, One Landowner at a Time"](#)
- [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – "Environmental Groups Seek More Time to Review Shell Falcon Pipeline Impact"](#)
- [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – "Data to the People: Activists Use Explosion of Information to Bring Oil and Gas Projects Home to Citizens"](#)
- [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – "What Pipeline? Maronda Farms Homeowners Ask?"](#)

**Please consider testifying in person or writing by the deadline of April 17, 2018**

**Beaver County:** Tuesday, April 3, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Central Valley High School Auditorium, 160 Baker Road Extension, Monaca, PA 15061

**Washington County:** Wednesday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m at Burgettstown Area Middle/High School (entrance W5), 104 Bavington Road, Burgettstown, PA 15021

**Allegheny County:** Thursday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m at Quaker Valley Middle School Auditorium, 618 Harbaugh Street, Sewickley, PA 15143

Those who wish to present testimony during a scheduled hearing are asked to register in advance by contacting the DEP's regional office. To register to testify in person, contact Lauren Fraley, Southwest Regional Office at [412-442-4203](tel:412-442-4203) or email to: [lfraley@pa.gov](mailto:lfraley@pa.gov).

Residents may submit written testimony until 4:00 PM April 17, 2018. Comments must pertain to the applications under consideration and should be emailed or mailed to the following address with a subject line stating that the email is intended for public record:

#### **MAIL LETTERS TO:**

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Southwest Regional Office  
Waterways & Wetlands Program  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**EMAIL LETTERS TO:** [RA-EPWW-SWRO@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPWW-SWRO@pa.gov)