



New Jersey Highlands Coalition

December Update

Conformance

The Highlands Council did not hold a meeting in November. Instead, they will meet on December 1st at 4:00 PM. The Township of Bedminster, the Borough of Mount Arlington, and the Township of Allamuchy are petitioning only their Preservation Areas for conformance and the Township of Washington in Warren County is petitioning both its Planning and Preservation Areas for conformance. If the Council approves all of these petitions, the total number of municipalities to have completed basic conformance will be 37!

Energy Issues

President Obama announced a grid modernization plan to create jobs and fast-track seven projects around the country. The Susquehanna-Roseland (S-R) Transmission Line would be fast-tracked through the Highlands as part of this program. This line is not about renewable energy since most of the energy it will transport will come from coal and nuclear.

In an effort to block this project from going forward, EarthJustice and the Eastern Environmental Law Clinic have filed a lawsuit on behalf of the NJ Highlands Coalition, New Jersey Sierra Club, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Environmental Federation, and Stop

the Lines, in the appellate division of the Superior Court, asking the NJ Board of Public Utilities to reconsider its approval of the Susquehanna-Roseland Line.

We are also following and commenting on the development of two pipeline loops: the Northeast Upgrade Project in the Northern Highlands proposed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline and the Northeast Supply Link Project in the Southern Highlands proposed by Transcontinental Gas Pipeline.

The National Park Service has announced 3 public hearings on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the S-R Transmission Line:

January 24 (Bushkill, PA)
January 25 (Stroudsburg, PA)
January 26 (Andover, NJ)

The Coalition is partnering with other organizations sponsoring information sessions to help the public with comments. Your written and oral comments, and presence at the hearings are important and encouraged! Stay tuned for more information.

Action in Trenton

We expect DEP to adopt the highly controversial Waiver Rule before the end of the year, in spite of strident opposition to it from many sectors, including ours. We have recently testified against a bill that would open State lands for wood harvesting and a bill that would move NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife from DEP to the Dept. of Agriculture.

Outreach

We have been busy showing the NJN film "The Highlands Rediscovered" and we would like to continue sharing this beautiful and informative film. If your organization (or an organization you know) is interested in hosting the New Jersey Highlands Coalition for a screening of this

film and a short panel discussion please contact Erica Van Auken at erica@njhighlandscoalition.org.

For current listings of Highlands-wide events, go to the "Highlands Events" section of our [website](#).

The New Jersey Highlands Coalition represents a diverse network of organizations - small and large, local, regional, statewide and national - and individuals with the common goal to protect, enhance and restore the New Jersey Highlands and to preserve the quality and quantity of drinking water both for the 850,000 people in the Highlands as well as the more than 5.4 million people in surrounding areas who depend on Highlands water. For more information visit our [website](#).

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