



New Jersey Highlands Coalition January Update

Conformance

At the December 1st Highlands Council meeting, the Township of Bedminster, the Borough of Mount Arlington, and the Township of Allamuchy petitioned only their Preservation Areas for conformance and the Township of Washington (in Warren County) petitioned both its Planning and Preservation Areas for conformance. As the Highlands Council approved these 4 petitions, the total number of municipalities to have completed basic conformance is now 37. This time last year only 5 municipal petitions had been approved!

At the next meeting, scheduled for January 19th at 4:00 PM, the Council will review Montville Township's petition to conform only its Preservation Area, Lopatcong Township's amended petition to include a Highlands Center, and a consistency determination for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's (TGP) 300 Line Project.

It is important that the Council determine that TGP's project is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the Highlands Act. Please join us at this meeting to let the Council know that you oppose pipelines through the Highlands!

Energy Issues

Our opposition to two Highlands pipeline projects continues; Tennessee Gas Pipeline's Northeast Upgrade Project in the Northern Highlands and Transcontinental Gas Pipeline's Northeast Supply Link Project in the Southern Highlands. Both of these projects will adversely impact Highlands water supplies.

Save the Date! The National Park Service has announced 3 public hearings on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Susquehanna-Roseland Transmission Line:

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

The Coalition and our partner organizations are sponsoring information sessions to assist you in making effective comments on the draft EIS. Your written and oral comments and a large turn out at the hearings are a necessary part of a successful strategy!

The sessions will be held simultaneously on January 12 at two regionally convenient locations. We strongly encourage your participation!

East Stroudsburg University
200 Prospect Street
East Stroudsburg, Pa 18301
7:00pm - 9:00pm

East Hanover Municipal Building
411 Ridgedale Avenue (2nd Floor)
East Hanover, NJ 07936
7:00pm - 9:00pm

Action in Trenton

It's the silliest season of the year in Trenton right now (lame duck!), and there is cause for alarm. We have been following a number of bad bills. Also, the DEP is likely to adopt the highly controversial Waiver Rule in spite of strident opposition to it from many sectors, including ours.

We have recently testified against S1954 that would open State lands for wood harvesting and a bill that would move NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife from the DEP to the Department of Agriculture.

The Wastewater Management Planning Act (A4335/S3156) would allow designations of new sewer service areas separately, without requiring it to be a consistent component of a submitted Wastewater Management Plan during a 2-year deadline extension-extension period and regardless if wastewater capacity is actually available.

The Permit Extension Act (A4422/S3165) will extend the expiration dates of permits pursuant to the Permit Extension Act of 2008 (another extension-extension bill favoring builders!). This bill will apply to developments whose approvals expired as long ago as January 1, 2007. Of particular concern to us, this bill turns the entirety of the Highlands Planning Area into a Growth Area, something the development community has been seeking since the passage of the Highlands Act.

Things to Do in the Highlands

For current listings of Highlands-wide recreational and cultural 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](#).