



NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COALITION

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July 25, 2012

NJDEP Division of Land Use Regulation
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My name is Erica Van Auken and I am the Campaign and Grassroots Coordinator for the New Jersey Highlands Coalition. The Coalition continues to have serious concerns with the proposed construction of Transco's Northeast Supply Link Project. Our main concerns are the numerous, negative impacts this project will have in Hunterdon County and the in greater Highlands Region.

The project will not enhance or protect our natural resources; instead it will encourage significant negative impacts to important waterways, critical wildlife habitat, wetlands, and forests. According to the 2001 State Plan, the project is located in the Environmentally Sensitive Planning Area (5) and the Rural Environmentally Sensitive Planning Area (4b). These are areas that should be protected, not slated for major development.

In addition, the project route, as proposed, would cross 3 tributaries of the Grandin Stream that are all listed as C-1 waters. The erosion and sedimentation impacts this project will have on these waterbodies cannot be mitigated. The project route will also cross the Raritan River less than one mile above the South Branch pumping station, which could potentially impact drinking water supplies.

This project will have too many negative impacts to numerous important waterbodies for the DEP to issue these permits. We request that the DEP conduct an independent analysis to find viable alternative routes instead of just relying on the data and the routes provided by Transco. Thank you.