



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

Aug - Sept 2015
Issue 72

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Fall Native Plant Sale

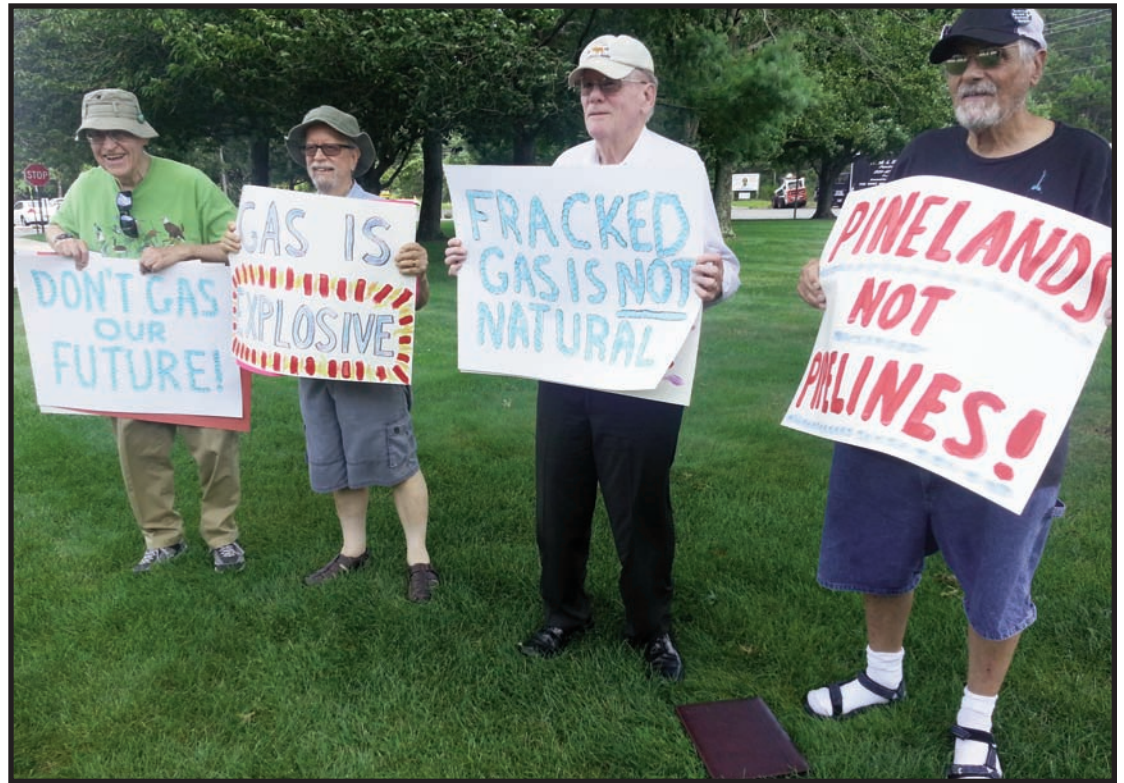
Bishop Farmsted
17 Pemberton Road

September 26, 2015
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A wide variety of trees and shrubs will be for sale during our first ever fall native plant sale. A list of available plants will be on our website.

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Southampton, NJ 08088
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PINELANDS WATCH



Residents outside of the Manchester Town Hall building before the BPU hearing for NJ Natural Gas

Pinelands NOT Pipelines!

Pinelands Preservation Alliance and our partners are now working on two, not one, big natural gas pipeline proposals. The South Jersey Gas proposal in the southern part of the Pinelands has been revived, and New Jersey Natural Gas has submitted a proposal in the northern part of the Pinelands. The two projects raise different issues of compliance with the Comprehensive Management Plan, but similar concerns about their impacts on water and other resources. Here is an overview on each of the applications.

South Jersey Gas

The South Jersey Gas (SJG) proposal is the pipeline we have been fighting for over two years now. The pipeline would traverse the Pinelands Forest Management Area of Cumberland,

Atlantic and Cape May Counties – a Pinelands planning district where this kind of infrastructure is forbidden unless it primarily serves people living inside the Pinelands already. The stated purpose is to bring natural gas to the B.L. England Power plant on the shores of Great Egg Harbor, and perhaps to provide an emergency backup supply to other users in Cape May County. In 2013, the Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission determined that this route for those purposes violated the Pinelands rules because the gas line would not primarily serve the Pinelands – a fairly obvious conclusion. The Executive Director and South Jersey Gas agreed to ask the full Pinelands Commission for a special exemption from the rules. In January 2014, the Pinelands Commission decided not to give South Jersey Gas that exemption.

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Now South Jersey Gas has decided its plans don't violate the CMP after all, arguing that the power plant will eventually serve demand for electricity that is mostly inside the Pinelands, so by extension the pipeline will mostly serve the needs of the Pinelands.

PPA does not buy it. The pipeline's route and stated purposes have not changed at all since the Commission's findings and vote in 2014, so the new claim that the proposal complied with Pinelands rules all along is simply not credible. Instead, South Jersey Gas has just decided to reframe its argument for exactly the same development plan – a plan that violates the Forest Area protections and threatens the integrity of the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP).

So the struggle over this project looks to continue, and the timeline for a decision is unclear. The Pinelands Commission is reviewing the application. You can keep up with developments at www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/hotissues/development/sjgamedapp/.

New Jersey Natural Gas

New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) has submitted an application to the NJ Board of Public Utilities and the Pinelands Commission to build a 28-mile long natural gas pipeline across the state from Chesterfield in Burlington County to Manchester Township in Ocean County. NJNG has provided various rationales for this new pipeline, including obtaining access to a second supplier for its network, reaching new customers in Ocean County, and providing a redundant source of gas to the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, a United States military facility, located 18 miles southeast of Trenton.

The proposed route passes through Chesterfield, North Hanover, Upper Freehold and Plumsted before reaching Route 539, where it turns south and enters the Pinelands and travels through the Joint Base. Before leaving the Base, the route turns east near the southern boundary of the Base, enters Lakehurst Borough and ends in Manchester on Colonial Drive (across from Huntington Drive).

The route through the Joint Base is in the Preservation Area established by the Pinelands Protection Act. The Preservation Area is the heart of the Pine Barrens ecosystem and home to many threatened and endangered species. It is supposed to get the highest level of protection.

This pipeline is generating a great deal of opposition from residents and their representatives in the towns outside the Pinelands, in large part because the route passes through heavy residential areas.

PPA's main concerns are whether the pipeline complies with the Pinelands rules and the impact that construction and maintenance will have on rare species populations and Pine Barrens habitats along its route. The Pinelands CMP states that development on the Joint Base must "serve the function of the Federal installation" and "where feasible" avoid the Preservation Area.

This project appears aimed at using the Base as a conduit to reach developed areas of Ocean County, rather than to serve the Joint Base or maintaining or safeguarding the region's natural gas supply. NJNG has not demonstrated that this pipeline is necessary, or even desirable, for any or all of these reasons.

The entire Board of Public Utilities application can be found at www.njng.com/regulatory/filings.asp. Pinelands Preservation Alliance has posted a map and other documents at www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/hotissues/development/njnatgasline/

What can you do?

- The best way to stay informed about these projects is to join our email list! You can join our email list on our website at www.pinelandsalliance.org. We never share your email address with anyone. Email is the quickest and cheapest way for us to let you know what is happening in the Pinelands and, more importantly, what you can do about it.
- Follow us on Facebook, [facebook.com/pinelands](https://www.facebook.com/pinelands), find us on Twitter @PinesAlliance.

Get Involved!

Attend a Pinelands Commission Meeting 2015 Meeting Schedule

Friday, September 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, November 13, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, December 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Pinelands Commission meetings are held at the Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education, 15C Springfield Road, New Lisbon. Agendas are posted one week prior to the meeting date at:

www.state.nj.us/pinelands/home/meetings/

Legislation Concerning Pipelines in New Jersey

Assemblyman Ron Dancer (12th District) has introduced three bills in the legislature to address some of the concerns regarding process and placement of pipelines in New Jersey.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance supports the following two bills:

A4501 Requires the Board of Public Utilities to allow public comment at public meetings; establishes requirements for public meetings concerning installation of natural gas conductors and related facilities.

A4503 Prohibits the placement of certain intrastate natural gas pipelines within 100 feet of buildings.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance commends Assemblyman Dancer for introducing these bills. PPA feels that the Assemblyman's third bill - **A4455**, which requires certain gas companies to use existing right-of-ways when constructing new transmission lines where practicable and to seek consent of municipalities prior to initiating certain projects, needs to contain provisions referencing Pinelands CMP standards for approvals on existing right-of-ways to ensure protection of rare species that tend to exist in some of the remote areas containing utility infrastructure.

The Assemblyman's bill need additional legislative sponsors especially Senate sponsors. Residents can help advance these bills by contacting your legislator. Copies of the bills can be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us

Editor: Theresa Lettman

Distributed to members of the Pinelands Watch Network and other members of the public. If you would like to receive these alerts, please contact Theresa Lettman at (609) 859-8860 Ext 22 or theresa@pinelandsalliance.org.

Prior issues are available at: www.pinelandsalliance.org

Printed on 30% recycled paper.

Jetport Controversy Revisited: Presentation

October 14, 2015

7 p.m.

Bishop Farmsted
17 Pemberton Road
Southampton

Timothy Hart, Division Director, Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission will discuss a 1960's proposal to construct a jetport in the Pinelands. See original diagrams and illustrations that were part of this proposal. The Jetport can be seen as a prime motivation for the eventual creation of the Pinelands National Reserve. Coffee, tee and dessert provided.

Mr. Hart gave this well-received presentation as part of the Pinelands Commission's annual Pinelands Short Course in March 2015. Now it comes to PPA!

Pre-registration is required because space is limited. Call (609) 859-8860 ext 14 or email tom@pinelandsalliance.org.

Upcoming Pinelands Commission CMP Policy and Implementation Committee Meetings

Friday, September 25, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, October 30, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, November 20, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

Meetings are held at the Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education, 15C Springfield Road, New Lisbon. Agendas are posted one week prior to the meeting date at:

www.state.nj.us/pinelands/home/meetings/

The Pinelands needs your help...and so do we!
Please support our mission & become a member

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Phone (Day): _____ (Evening): _____

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Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Membership Categories

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Patron \$250

Benefactor \$500

Chairman's Circle \$1,000

Other _____

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE:

A PPA membership card
A year's subscription to Inside the Pinelands
A PPA window sticker
Discounts on PPA merchandise and events

Sponsors receive a copy of The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural DVD
Patrons receive John McPhee's seminal book *The Pine Barrens*
Benefactors receive The Pine Barrens of New Jersey, a photographic history of this region
Chairman's Circle will receive the book *Seasons of the Pines* and a personalized tour of the Pinelands



Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Bishop Farmstead

17 Pemberton Road

Southampton, NJ 08088

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Pinelands NOT Pipelines!



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