Residents protest the New Jersey Natural Gas Pipeline during the Pinelands Commission special meeting on July 26th.

Report Finds No Need for NJ Natural Gas Pipeline

by Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director

New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) has proposed a 30-mile, 30” diameter, high pressure natural gas pipeline through residential areas, the Pinelands National Reserve, and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. It would run through the Preservation Area of the Pinelands as designated by the Pinelands Protection Act. PPA, town governments and citizens along its path believe the pipeline is unnecessary, dangerous and in violation of Pinelands protection rules. A new independent expert report shows just how misguided this project really is.

The stated rationale for the pipeline is to provide NJNG’s network with a redundant source of gas in case of major failures on its principal supplier, the TETCO interstate pipeline that runs across the middle of New Jersey. The so-called Southern Reliability Link (SRL) was approved by the state Board of Public Utilities (BPU) on that basis, and is now under review by the Pinelands Commission. The pipeline is not cheap: it would cost more than $180 million, all to be paid for by NJNG’s customers.

When BPU approved the pipeline based on the idea of a massive failure in the TETCO supply line, PPA commissioned the energy markets consulting firm, Skipping Stone, to analyze BPU’s reasoning. Skipping Stone found that BPU’s reasoning did not match the way the TETCO supply system works, and seemed to be based on an outdated picture of the TETCO system. Unfortunately, BPU never made NJNG conduct any specific analyses of the failure scenario, so it did not disclose the fatal defect at the heart of its approval.

“Had the BPU understood the bidirectional nature of the TETCO mainline supply, it would have found that SRL is neither financially prudent nor the least disruptive means of addressing the risk of gas supply interruption,” Skipping Stone said.

BPU’s approval of the pipeline hinges on...
We have been working with a volunteer committee composed of professional and amateur photographers to host a juried photography exhibit focused on the Pinelands National Reserve.

“The Pinelands is a beautiful and under-appreciated area of our state. This exhibit provides a vehicle to bring people into the Pinelands and display their artistic creations of this lovely part of New Jersey. I am honored to work with PPA to protect and highlight the Pinelands,” says Christopher Kosseff, committee chair.

Committee member, Patricia Worley says, “I respect the need to preserve the Pinelands and I think photography is a vital tool in conveying that message. I hope that many people take the time to visit the Pinelands and see the unique beauty we have surrounding us.”

This is a call for images that celebrate the Pinelands National Reserve.

Black and white and color images taken within the boundaries of the National Reserve depicting its landscape, flora, wildlife, communities and people will be accepted. The exhibit will hang in our newly renovated barn. Photographers of all skill levels are welcome to apply - $1,000 in cash prizes up for grabs!

Submit up to 3 images for $25 and $5 for each additional image up to a maximum of ten total submissions. Student (22 years of age and under) entries are FREE. with proof of current student status.

Submission Categories are:
1. Landscape
2. Flora
3. Wildlife
4. People in Nature
5. Communities in the Pine Barrens (including Architecture)
6. Open Student (up to age 22)

Learn more on our website www.pinelandsalliance.org.

Images will be judged by Bill Horin the founder and creative director of ArtC and a professional photographer located in Linwood. Bill has been influential in promoting the arts in South Jersey for over two decades. He is the creator and host of the weekly television show, ArtC with Bill Horin every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. on SNJ Today/WMGM. In addition, Bill established two successful magazines dedicated to the arts: ArtBeat and Envision. Bill is also the Director of the photography and video conference, Photo SJ 2017.

Registration due: September 29, 2017
Acceptance Notification: October 6th
Gallery exhibition: Nov. 4 to Jan. 3, 2018
Opening Reception: Nov. 4, 2017 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Awards announced at the reception.
For more information contact Steve Sebastian, 609-859-8860 ext. 124 or steve@pinelandsalliance.org
Committee members: Albert Horner, Christopher Kosseff, Richard Lewis, Cathy Melfi, Charles Riter, Penelope Taylor, Patricia Worley

Call for Photos!
Submit your image or images taken within the boundaries of the Pinelands National Reserve.
$1,000 in cash prizes!
Registration Deadline: Sept. 29th!

Learn more on our website www.pinelandsalliance.org.
You’ve got to love the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer, right? I mean, the aquifer supplies water to millions of residents and visitors. It’s one of America’s biggest, most intact aquifers. It sustains all our streams, ponds and swamps. There wouldn’t be Pine Barrens treefrogs, Bog asphodel or White-fringed orchids without a healthy Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer. We wouldn’t have clean streams to paddle and lakes to swim in. It’s a no-brainer!

But how many people know all this? How many of our politicians know this? Our sense is that most New Jersey residents, even most politicians, do not know what the name “Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer” means, much less how important, wonderful and vulnerable this aquifer is.

So in January 2017, PPA launched the “Save the Source” communications campaign to raise the level of knowledge and motivate people to do right by the aquifer. We especially want to be sure that the next governor is tuned in to the things he or she needs to do to protect this vital resource.

The campaign centers on a monthly series of short videos that tell the story of the aquifer through the voices of people who depend upon it for their drinking water, their livelihoods and their recreation.

So far the videos have featured people like a mother who needs to be sure her well water is healthy, a farmer who draws on its plentiful waters to irrigate the vegetables she grows, a brewer who can’t make great beer without clean water, and scientists trying to restore the health of Barnegat Bay, protect Pine Barrens treefrogs and the rare wildflowers blooming in streamside savannas.

July’s video features Margo Pellegrino, a Medford Lakes resident who kayaks here and does epic kayak trips across the country to raise awareness of its threatened rivers.

New stories are posted each month. Find all the videos and learn what you can do to help, at www.savethesource.org and PPA’s Facebook page.

**Essential Facts about the Aquifer**

The Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer is a 17-trillion gallon underground sea of fresh water that saturates the sands beneath our feet in South Jersey.

The forests of the Pinelands are a great protective blanket over the aquifer, gathering and cleansing rainfall, and preventing us from polluting the water within the sands.

The aquifer stretches across and beyond the Pinelands to cover 80 percent of South Jersey over an area of 2 million acres.

Every household and business in South Jersey relies directly or indirectly on this aquifer. About 3,000 wells draw 35 billion gallons per year for drinking water, irrigation and industry from this aquifer.

The aquifer supplies the water in all the streams, lakes and wetlands of the Pinelands and beyond, additionally 200,000 acres of farmland depend on the aquifer for irrigation.

The aquifer supplies fresh water to our Atlantic Coast estuaries and Delaware Bayshore and supplies water to the Delaware River. Philadelphia gets 10% of its drinking water from the Delaware River.

**What’s the worry?**

The aquifer is under threat, and in some places is already in deep trouble.

We are polluting the aquifer with too much fertilizer, with toxic chemicals, and with things like medicines whose effects on the water supply we do not even understand.

We are drawing so much water out of the aquifer for drinking, household uses and irrigation of lawns and farms in some places that we are bleeding it dry.

People are also hurting the aquifer and the wildlife and plants that rely on it through abusive actions like irresponsible off-road- ing and dumping of trash and chemicals.

**There is a solution**

In NJ, fresh water belongs to the public. State government gives the water away to water suppliers, farmers and private well owners for free.

With the power to give away the public’s water comes the responsibility to make sure that water is clean and only used in ways that are truly sustainable.

**After years of talk and scientific studies, we all know what needs to be done:**

- **Plan Ahead** – adopt an effective long-term plan for water allocations.

- **No Net Loss** – Require off-setting conservation actions whenever increased pumping is approved.

- **Do No Harm** – Adopt impact thresholds for withdrawals that protect supplies, wildlife and habitats from the effects of drawing down the water table.

- **Enforce the Law** – Be consistent in enforcing our existing water protection rules.

**Save the Source**

Learn more about the campaign and the aquifer, see the latest video and to learn how you can take action to protect it!

[www.SavetheSource.org](http://www.SavetheSource.org)
The Pinelands Commission is the most important single agency for protecting the Pinelands. Other agencies, especially the Department of Environmental Protection, play big roles, but the Pinelands Commission is the key player. If it is run by people who love the Pinelands and are dedicated to making the nation’s most innovative growth management program work, then this mission will succeed. If not, we will gradually lose the Pinelands.

The Commission is an “independent executive agency” of the State of New Jersey created by the Pinelands Protection Act of 1979 and charged with writing, revising and implementing the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (the “CMP”). Being an “independent” agency, it is supposed to be above party politics, and politicians are not supposed to interfere in its decision making. Unfortunately, not all governors and legislators respect this principle of our state constitution.

The Commission writes the CMP for the entire Pinelands National Reserve of 1.1 million acres, and it must review and approve all new development in the “Pinelands Area” of 938,000 acres for compliance with the CMP. Local zoning must comply with the CMP, but towns retain the power to fill in the details through their own ordinances. In the remaining 212,000 acres where the Pinelands National Reserve overlaps with the preexisting Coastal Zone Management area, the DEP and Pinelands Commission have overlapping authority to review developments for compliance.

The Commission is controlled by a governing board of 15 members, who serve for no compensation. Seven members are nominated by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate; seven are chosen by each of the seven counties that have land in the Pinelands; and one is appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The Commission also has a staff who do the day-to-day work and advise – some might say control – the Commissioners.

The overriding goal of the CMP is to protect the Pinelands environment, and to permit development only to the extent compatible with protecting the region’s special natural resources. Throughout its history, the Commission has included Democrats and Republicans, farmers and conservationists, business people and citizen activists – and nearly all of them have been committed to this conservation mission.

But the Pinelands Commission is vulnerable to political pressure to compromise its protections because the governor can veto its decisions, its governing board of volunteer Commissioners is appointed by politicians at the state and county levels, and its funding is mostly provided by the governor and legislature through the state budgeting process. Recent actions by the staff and the Commissioners on the South Jersey Gas and New Jersey Gas pipeline projects are a prime example.

Development projects with powerful backers often receive special exemptions from the environmental rules that might otherwise block them from proceeding. These cases have resulted in the loss of threatened and endangered species habitats and the construction of subdivisions, roads and other infrastructure that fragments natural habitats.

Fortunately, these cases have mostly taken place at the periphery of the Pinelands and not in the core of the Pinelands – so far.

Because the Commission is so vital to saving the Pinelands, it is critical that citizens demand the governor, the state Senate and their County Freeholders appoint people with relevant expertise and a proven record of caring about the environment.

I hope you will consider joining our activist network, Pinelands Watch. You can learn more about it in the article on page 6. Our staff will help you take effective action to protect the Pinelands and connect you with other activists across the state. Pinelands Watch activists take this knowledge back to their communities and grow the network of people demanding protection for this special place.

Explore the Pinelands National Reserve with Pinelands Adventures!

Guided and unguided trips on the Batsto River, bus tours, hikes, canoe lessons and more.

Fun for the whole family!

Book your trip today! Fall is a great time to experience New Jersey’s Pine Barrens.

Call 609-268-0189 or visit www.PinelandsAdventures.org

Fall Guided Trips are listed on page 7 of this newsletter.
Report Finds Pipeline Not Needed

continued from cover

the claim that the company needs to respond to a hypothetical “single point of failure” disruption in service along the TETCO pipeline that NJNG relies on for most of the gas it send on to its customers. Skipping Stone’s analysis revealed that BP U failed to recognize that, because the TETCO line runs bi-directionally, adequate backup already exists in case of a failure anywhere along the line, so even an explosion along the TETCO mainline – which really did happen in April 2016 – would not cut NJNG off.

The “upstream single point of failure” hypothesis on which BP U approved the pipeline assumed the TETCO supply only ran in one direction, so a failure “upstream” would cut off supply to NJNG. Because the TETCO line actually runs in both directions, no single failure in either direction would cut off supply to NJNG. When pipelines flow in more than one direction, outage areas can be bypassed so supply is not disrupted.

Skipping Stone’s analysis found “only one genuine, though remote, single point of failure scenario for the TETCO supply to NJNG’s system.”

The Skipping Stone analysis further found that the only significant gas supply failure scenario that could occur was not considered by BPU, but can be solved by a 100% effective and vastly less expensive fix far from the protected Pinelands area. The BPU should consider this alternative approach instead, the report says. Skipping Stone estimates the cost of the alternative to be $26 to $28 million.

The lone, short section of the TETCO system where a major failure could disrupt NJNG’s supply is called the Freehold Lateral, which connects the TETCO main line to the NJNG network. The report found that this remote chance could be eliminated with a much shorter, less expensive pipeline alongside an existing line in Middlesex County. The BPU, Skipping Stone noted, “did not even consider, and NJNG did not analyze, alternative means of addressing this specific, highly remote, failure scenario.”

In the unlikely event of a failure on the Freehold Lateral, 100% of NJNG’s customers could be served by building a co-located 5.4-mile backup pipe. The $26 to $28 million price tag would save NJNG customers more than $150 million in construction costs compared to the SRL pipeline through the Pinelands.

In contrast, even if NJNG’s claim that a single failure on the TETCO line could eliminate its supply were accurate, the SRL pipeline would not be an effective antidote to such a failure. SRL would only be able to make up for one-third of the lost capacity, leaving two-thirds of NJNG’s customers with no gas and a $180 million bill for the 30-mile pipeline. SRL, therefore, is an extremely expensive and very poorly-conceived proposal that would unnecessarily burden ratepayers and threaten the Pinelands National Reserve.

In summary, this proposed gas pipeline through the Pinelands is an over-priced and ineffective answer to a problem that does not exist. With the undeniable evidence against this pipeline boondoggle, the Pinelands Commission should withhold approval and the BPU must reconsider its faulty approval of the pipeline.

This report can be found at www.ProtectThePines.org.

The Pinelands Commission held a public meeting on July 26th and will vote on whether or not this project complies with Pinelands rules later this summer or fall. PPA, three townships, Sierra Club and Environment NJ have appealed the Board of Public Utilities approval and are opposing the project before the Pinelands Commission.

Editors Note: The Pinelands Commission stated in the media that they might vote on this pipeline at their Sept. 8th meeting which will be held after this newsletter was printed.

Fairs & Festivals

There is so much happening in October. We hope you can stop by our table at one of these great events!

Pine Barrens Jamboree
October 14th, 10am - 4pm
Wells Mills County Park
Waretown, NJ

Country Living Fair
October 15th, 10am - 4pm
at Historic Batsto Village
Wharton State Forest

Pinelands Commission

Next Monthly Meetings:
Fri., Oct. 13th, 9:30 am
Fri., Nov. 3rd, 9:30 am
*Open to the public.

Location:
15 Springfield Road
New Lisbon, NJ 08064
Ph: (609) 894-7300
www.nj.gov/pinelands
Take Action - Join the Pinelands Watch

by Katie Smith, Policy Advocate

Many of our members and friends are upset and concerned about the future of the Pinelands. Thousands of individuals are involved with the fight to stop the South Jersey Gas pipeline and the New Jersey Natural Gas pipeline. We want to make it easier for them to take action and speak up against these pipelines and other threats to the Pine Barrens ecosystem. To do this and to develop a more cohesive network of activists, we are inviting residents to join Pinelands Watch.

Pinelands Watch is an activist network that connects individuals and provides resources to fight for the protection of the Pinelands. We hold meetings here at our offices and in Ocean City.

What do I get if I join Pinelands Watch?
You get invitations to four meetings a year where you can meet other activists and PPA staff to plan advocacy strategy. You get access to breaking information on major issues impacting the Pinelands and the tools to engage your friends and neighbors in the fight. If you live within the Pinelands boundaries you can be our eyes and ears. What is happening in your town? Has a new development been proposed? Do you know someone who would make a great candidate for Pinelands Commissioner?

There are many ways to get involved, but it is hard to know where to start. Opportunities are available at the individual, municipal, county, regional, and state level and can involve stewardship work, building support within a community, political advocacy, and more. In addition to the Pinelands Commission and its subcommittee meetings, residents can also advocate for the Pinelands through municipal resolutions and ordinances, their county freeholders, and the Pinelands Municipal Council. Not sure what any of that is? Don’t worry – we can help!

One issue in particular that residents are concerned with is the transparency and accountability of the Pinelands Commission. If the Commissioners themselves are not committed to the protection of the Pinelands it makes it extremely difficult to achieve long-term protection of this special place.

Seven of the fifteen Commissioners are appointed by the governor and approved by the New Jersey State Senate. Each of the seven Pinelands counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean) also appoints a Commissioner through the Board of Freeholders. These appointments are intended to represent the residents of New Jersey and their interests in the Pinelands. Through Pinelands Watch, we are working with residents to ensure that the process by which their Commissioners are appointed is transparent and fair. The integrity of the appointment process is essential to build a Commission the public can trust to protect the Pinelands.

In addition to the appointment process, residents are also involved with issue-specific matters. Hundreds of residents submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the New Jersey Natural Gas Southern Reliability Link (SRL) pipeline easement at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, and many more submitted public comment to the Pinelands Commission in opposition to the SRL.

New faces, in addition to longtime stewardship volunteers and activists, are speaking out at Pinelands Commission meetings to demand they take action to stop destructive off-road vehicle activity. Residents are learning more about the aquifer and demanding a sustainable water supply as the state considers a new water supply master plan.

As always, residents help keep us at PPA informed about development directly affecting their communities. By bringing together activists concerned about all of these issues, we hope to build a stronger coalition and increase awareness of risks threatening the Pinelands. Increased participation by residents is a benefit to us all and to the valuable and unique resources of the region.

If you are interested in getting involved with Pinelands Watch, please contact Katie Smith, policy advocate, at Katie@pinelandsalliance.org.

Tour de Pines
Oct. 4 to Oct. 8, 2017
Bicycle the length and breadth of the Pinelands National Reserve over 5 days.
Like no other bike tour in the state of New Jersey!

Each day’s tour ranges from 40-55 miles with average speeds of 11-13 mph. Ride one, two or all days of the Tour. Some shorter loops available.

www.pinelandsalliance.org

PLUS:
GPX files of all rides available for download after you register.
NEW RIDE starting from Laurita Winery in New Egypt and updates to old favorites!

Stay Informed
Follow us on Facebook
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The events listed below are just a few of the great trips offered by Pinelands Adventures. Visit www.pinelandsalliance.org and click on Event Calendar for a complete listing of Pinelands programs and trips provided by a wide variety of groups and organizations.

Pinelands Adventures Field Trips
Fall 2017

Hampton Furnace Family Exploration (Walk)
Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ
Oct. 7 Trips depart at 10am and Sept. 24 and Oct. 21, Trips depart at 1:30pm
This 2-hour Pine Barrens introduction is perfect for everyone who wants to learn about Pinelands history, ecology, and culture. Explore a serene Atlantic White Cedar swamp and discover life in a Pine Barrens stream, step back into the history of Hampton Furnace, use dip nets to look for aquatic life and examine unique carnivorous Pine Barrens plants.
Cost is $25 Adults, $15 Children (6 to 15 years old).

Journey Between Two Rivers (Hike)
Oct. 28, Nov. 11 and Dec. 2. Trip departs at 9 a.m. returns 2 p.m. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ
Join Pinelands Adventures Naturalist, John Volpa, for a four-mile hike at an easy pace between the Mullica and Batsto Rivers. Explore the uplands and river edges for native plants and animals while learning about the unique features of the Pine Barrens. Bring a picnic lunch!
Cost is $35 Adults, $20 Children (8 to 15 years old).

Pine Barrens Time Machine (Small Bus Tour)
Change is the key to life on earth. Join former social studies and science teacher, John Volpa, for a journey exploring the region’s geologic past to the present. We’ll focus on the human interplay with its natural resources, its unique flora and fauna, how it became the Pinelands National Reserve and what we can learn from its history as society grapples with today’s local and global environmental issues. Cost is $60 per person.

Pine Barrens Ghost Towns Tour (Small Bus Tour)
Oct. 28th & Nov. 12, 10 am to 3pm. Guide is Barbara Solem. Trip meets at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ
The Pine Barrens contain more ghost towns, some say, than the entire America west. Barbara Solem, author of Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, will take participants on a tour of many of the forgotten industrial towns that once thrived in the Pine Barrens. Sells out quickly - register today! Cost is $60 per person.

Batsto River Naturalist Guided Tour (Paddle)
Oct. 1, 14 and 29. Trip is from 8:30 am to 4pm. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ
This trip begins at Quaker Bridge on the Batsto River. You’ll explore on water and land while learning about Pine Barrens habitats, history, plants and animals. Once on the river we’ll make stops along the way to investigate unique Pine Barrens plants along the river’s edge, learn about the role of fire in Pine Barrens ecology, and history of bog iron in the pines. This trip ends at Batsto Lake.
Cost is $60 PP Canoe or Kayak $50 PP - BYO Canoe or Kayak | Ages 8 & up

Canoeing Lessons (Paddle)
Sept 23rd & Oct. 8th. Trip starts at 9am. Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ
Learn the basics of canoeing with instructor John Volpa in our three hour class. This introductory program is designed to help you feel comfortable while enjoying this classic American outdoor activity. You’ll learn to paddle on calm water close to the edge of the lake and canoeing terminology, technique and strokes. Cost is $35 per person. Ages 10 & up.

Mullica River 101 (Paddle)
Oct. 21st. Trip departs at 9am and Sept. 23 and Oct 8. Trip departs at 1:30pm
Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ
Take a 3 hour trip down the Mullica River from Atsion Lake dam to Beaver Dam with guide and naturalist John Volpa. Participants will get a Pine Barrens Primer by exploring the river for an overview of Pine Barrens habitats, history and plants and animals.
Cost is $45 - Canoe or Kayak and $35 PP BYO Canoe or Kayak. For ages 8 and up.

Pine Barrens Discovery Tour (Walk & Paddle)
Oct. 22 at 9am and Oct. 7 at 1:30pm
Learn about habitats as we trek along the edges of the Mullica River. Canoe along a Pine Barrens lake try dip or seine netting and discovering native plants and animals as you walk an easy pace.
Cost $35 Adults, $20 Children (8 to 15 years old).

Hike the Batona Trail
Nov. 5. Trip departs 8:30 am and is 8 hours. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ
We’ll keep a moderate pace between frequent stops for stories and exploration of Pine Barrens flora and fauna in wetlands and uplands. We will hike about 7.5 miles.
Cost is $45 per person Ages 16 & up | Guide John Volpa
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SCAN: Scan this code to get to PPA's website

This code can be scanned and read by a
Smart Phone using a QR Code Reader app
available from iTunes or Android web stores

Name:
Address:
City: County: State: Zip:
Phone (Day): (Evening):
E-Mail: Referred by:
☐ Check enclosed payable to PPA
☐ Mastercard    ☐ Visa    ☐ Discover
Card Number: Exp. Date: 3 Digit Security Code:
Signature of Card Holder:

Membership Categories
Basic ☐ $35
Family ☐ $60
Sponsor ☐ $100
Patron ☐ $250
Benefactor ☐ $500
Chairman's Circle ☐ $1,000
Other ☐

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE:
• PPA membership card
• Year-long subscription to Inside the Pinelands
• PPA window sticker
• 10% off at Pinelands Adventures and on PPA merchandise

Our mission is to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of New Jersey’s Pinelands.

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 members receive the book Seasons of the Pines and a personalized tour of the Pinelands

Please Recycle this newsletter! When finished give it to a friend or neighbor and encourage them to learn about PPA’s mission and programs.