

## **Tell Governor Murphy: Halt Construction while SRL is in Court!**

New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) has begun building an approximately 28-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 statutory Preservation Area of the Pinelands as designated by the Pinelands Protection Act and the supposed purpose of the pipeline is reliability.

**PPA, Sierra Club and Bordentown Township have filed appeals showing the Pinelands Commission’s approval of the pipeline was unlawful, but NJNG wants to preempt those appeals and make the pipeline a “done deal” by building it and turning it on before the Court even gets to hear the case.**

**The Governor, Attorney General and Board of Public Utilities can halt construction now so the appeal can be heard on the merits, and NJNG cannot put residents and the Pinelands at risk to build this completely unneeded pipeline.**

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## **Take Action Today!**

Contact Governor Phil Murphy at **609-292-6000** or [nj.gov/governor/contact/all](http://nj.gov/governor/contact/all) and urge him to direct the Attorney General and Board of Public Utilities to halt construction of the Southern Reliability Link (SRL) in Burlington County until the lawsuits have been resolved!

### **The message for Governor Murphy:**

*“The Southern Reliability Link pipeline is a risk to residents’ safety, ratepayers’ money and the Pinelands. The pipeline is both completely unnecessary and is likely to be stopped by the courts once they decide any of several pending appeals. These lawsuits have merit. Do not give in to NJNG’s attempt to make the pipeline a done deal. Do not let NJNG deny the public its day in court on this terrible development. Please urge the BPU to halt construction and allow the courts to hear and decide these cases!”*

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**What’s wrong with this pipeline?** The SRL violates the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and sets a precedent that can’t be undone. The CMP only permits infrastructure like gas pipelines to be developed within the Joint Base if it is “associated with the function” of the facility. In this case, the pipeline just uses the Joint Base as a path from one side of the Pinelands to the other - in fact the pipeline would provide 200 times the amount of gas that the Joint Base actually needs.

- 1. The pipeline is not needed.** Neither NJNG nor the Board of Public Utilities has conducted a reliability analysis that shows that this project is necessary for the Joint Base or for the system as a whole. Independent expert reports have demonstrated that the project is unnecessary.
- 2. The current route goes through the Pinelands Preservation Area designated by the Pinelands Protection Act.** This route is unnecessary because there are better alternatives that avoid the Pinelands entirely.
- 3. The pipeline is not genuinely associated with the function of the Joint Base.** The pipeline is designed to deliver over 200 times the amount of gas that the Joint Base gets from NJNG. The Joint Base is also

unable to tap into a 30", 722 psi pipeline without major infrastructure, and NJNG has no intention to modify the system in the near future. The Joint Base has said in their own reports that their existing natural gas system is adequate to meet their needs.

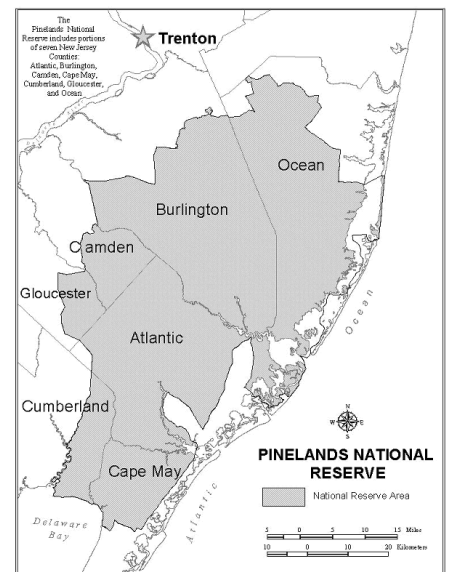
4. **The pipeline fails to meet essential water resource protections outlined in the CMP, putting our aquifer, and the 1 million residents who rely on it for drinking water, at risk.** The route runs through two Superfund sites for which the EPA has required specific remediation actions. It is essential to avoid any possible resuspension or spread of contaminants within these areas. Available data on contamination and site geology in these areas and throughout the route is insufficient to ensure the safety of construction and operation of the pipeline.
5. **The pipeline fails to meet protections within the CMP designed to maintain and enhance populations of threatened and endangered plants and wildlife.**
6. **There are natural gas pipelines being proposed throughout the state with no comprehensive plan to demonstrate their need.** There is also a lack of understanding of their impacts on our land, water and air.
7. **The pipeline would cost \$178 million – 100% of which would be paid for by New Jersey Natural Gas ratepayers.** The only people who win are the shareholders of the company, not the customers.
8. **The Pinelands Commission approved the pipeline in 2017 under political pressure, despite the fact that it clearly violates the Pinelands protection laws,** required the votes of two Commissioners who had conflicts of interest on this issue, and was approved without an evidentiary hearing.
9. **PPA submitted independent expert reports demonstrating that the pipeline was unnecessary to ensure reliable gas supplies to NJNG’s customers,** was vastly overpriced at the expense of ratepayers, and posed major risks to water supplies, the safety of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, and the people who live along its route.

## **The Pinelands & New Jersey Natural Gas Pipeline**

The 1.1 million-acre Pinelands National Reserve protects the globally rare Pine Barrens ecosystem, home to plants found nowhere else in the United States. One of the largest freshwater aquifers in the United States can be found within the sandy soils of the Pinelands. PPA’s mission is to protect and preserve the resources of the New Jersey Pinelands.

For the reasons listed above, PPA opposes the SRL pipeline and has filed several appeals (along with other organizations and municipalities) challenging the project. **The courts should have the opportunity to fully consider the cases BEFORE the pipeline is built!**

In an attempt to complete as much construction as possible before the cases are litigated, NJNG began construction in Ocean County in December of 2018. This month, Burlington County issued the permit for construction to begin. This places people and the environment at risk for a project that is likely to be stopped once the cases are decided!



Map created by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission

***Get more information on our webpage – [www.PinelandsAlliance.org](http://www.PinelandsAlliance.org) - or give us a call 609-859-8860.***