

Stephen M. Tomasik  
DEC - Division of Environmental Permits  
625 Broadway, 4th Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-1750

January 21, 2015

6 NYCRR 608.8

Application ID: 0-9999-00181/00009 - Water Quality Certification

Application ID: 0-9999-00181/00010 - Freshwater Wetlands

Application ID: 0-9999-00181/00011 - Water Withdrawal

Application ID: 0-9999-00181/00012 - Excavation and Fill in Navigable Waters

Application ID: 0-9999-00181/00013 - Stream Disturbance

Application ID: 4-4350-00008/00012 - Air Title V

Dear Mr. Tomasik:

The Constitution Pipeline and Kinder Morgan's Tennessee Gas Pipeline are proposed to be within 100 feet of each other in some places. The cumulative effects of having two pipelines in such close proximity must be considered in your decision to grant a 401 permit. Because the pipelines are running parallel to each other, it will mean clear-cutting almost twice the 100 foot right-of-way Constitution intends to make, on the same steep slopes. [The DEIS documents that the right-of-way will fragment 36 miles of interior forest!](#) We are all very aware of what happened when Irene and Lee stormed through the area a few years ago. Tiny seasonal streams became roaring rivers, flooding low lying areas with mud and debris. With so much clear-cutting occurring in formerly un-fragmented forests, a heavy rain storm could easily turn into a disaster, permanently destroying existing wetlands and stream beds with sediment.

[Small streams and wetlands offer an enormous array of habitats for plant, animal, and microbial life.](#) In New York, the *Hellbender Salamander* is found solely in the Susquehanna and Allegheny River drainages, including their associated tributaries. It is the largest aquatic salamander in the United States, growing up to two feet long. This giant salamander drowns when sedimentation clogs up its gills. Hellbenders prefer swift-running, well-oxygenated, unpolluted streams and rivers. It will be put at risk if this project goes through. Fines, after the fact, will not alter the damage to this creature's habitat. This is not something that can be mitigated by creating a wetland location somewhere else. This must be prevented from happening in the first place.

The Constitution pipeline will open the door to TGP, and together they will do unmitigated damage to New York State's clear waterways. The environmental costs of these pipelines far outweigh any need or benefit from either of them. Do not grant Constitution a 401 permit or hold Adjudicatory Hearings on this project.

Sincerely,

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Signature

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Name

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Address