

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

_____, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Tomasik:

The Constitution Pipeline (CP) would require the clear-cutting of 1,000 acres of forested land, including 100-foot-wide swaths leading up to and away from delicate streamside riparian zones. Riparian zones are extremely vulnerable to erosion if not populated with trees and vegetation, whose roots act as anchors for soil and whose canopies help reduce the impact of raindrops on exposed soil.¹ CP would also require the digging of massive trenches on steep slopes in clay soil and the blasting of consolidated rock. All of these activities *will* cause runoff, making streams muddy, or turbid.

For AA, A, B, C, and D streams—this includes nearly all of the stream crossings along CP’s proposed route—DEC regulations state there can be “no increase in turbidity that will cause a substantial visible contrast to natural conditions” (Chapter X, Divisions of Water, §701.3). The construction of the proposed CP *will* cause added inputs of sediment and other solids and therefore *will* cause a visible increase in turbidity.

I ask you to deny the 401 water quality certificate, or hold adjudicatory hearings.

Sincerely,

Signature

Printed Name

Address

¹ Cornell Cooperative Extension, 2004; Written by James Ochterski, CCE - Schuyler County;
http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/bmp/contents/during/dur_streamside.htm