

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:

If the DEC were to approve the permits for the Constitution Pipeline, DEC would be giving a thumbs-up to clear-cutting 1,000 acres of forested land in New York. Assuming ten feet between each tree, this would mean a loss of 436,000 trees. Assuming six feet between each tree, the pipeline would take more than 1.2 million trees.¹

Put another way, in the span of its projected nine-month “construction” process, Constitution Pipeline would most likely completely destroy the work of the Million Trees NYC project, which, since 2007, has planted 943,205 trees in New York.² Condoning massive deforestation is antithetical to the DEC’s mandate, especially as the frequency of floods in New York continues to increase. Trees significantly help slow surface runoff and reduce flooding. Trees significantly contribute to keeping sediment and unwanted nutrients from flowing into streams and lakes.³ The construction of CP would necessarily have a permanent negative impact on water quality. Therefore, I urge you to deny CP the 401 water quality certificate, or hold adjudicatory hearings.

Sincerely,

Signature

Printed Name

Address

¹ <http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/SERVICE/LIBRARY/for96-054/index.html>

² <http://www.milliontreesnyc.org/html/home/home.shtml>

³ Cornell Cooperative Extension, 2004; Written by James Ochterski, CCE - Schuyler County;
http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/bmp/contents/during/dur_streamsideside.htm