

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

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John Clarkson
Town Supervisor



VIA EMAIL/US MAIL September 21, 2015

Basil Seggos, Commissioner
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Bill Finch, Acting Executive Director
NYS Thruway Authority

RE: DEIS Scoping Process for Pilgrim Pipeline Project

Commissioner Seggos and Director Finch:

The Town of Bethlehem has substantial concerns regarding the Pilgrim Pipeline project, and we have passed a [resolution](#) on this topic. As you represent the Co-Lead Agencies for the Pilgrim Pipeline environmental review, we are reaching out.

On September 14, 2016, you issued a Positive Declaration that the project may have significant adverse impacts, and therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared; accordingly, a scoping document is to be developed. You have indicated that there will be an extended comment period on the draft scope once published, with the goal of providing the public and other involved agencies an opportunity to help determine the range of subjects that will be studied in the draft statement (DEIS).

Given the significance of this project, and its potential impacts, we urge an even stronger procedural approach than you have outlined. ***Specifically, we ask that you adopt a 90-day comment period and furthermore hold a public hearing in each affected county on the draft scoping document.*** We acknowledge that you are only required to hold a 60-day comment period and can choose to establish public hearings at your discretion. We expect vigorous interest in the Project and also to contribute materially to the scope of the DEIS.

In addition to the pipeline's location within NYS Thruway right-of-way, it is proposed to traverse twenty-nine municipalities and six counties including several private lands, and we are therefore advocating for ***maximum feasible participation of the public and affected municipalities in evaluating the scope of impacts to those lands and resources.***

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Clarkson".

John Clarkson, Town Supervisor, and
Town Board, Town of Bethlehem, New York