Constitution Pipeline

Questions For Communities Along The Proposed Route

WATERFALL UNITY ALLIANCE

Location: Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Schoharie Counties

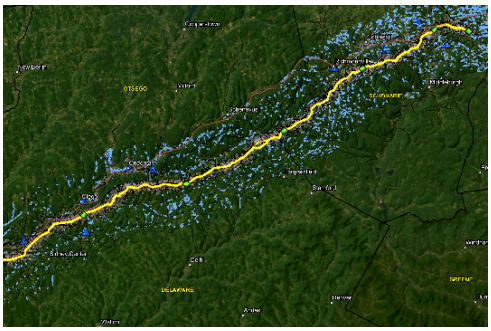
Introduction

The Constitution Pipeline is a pipeline of fracked gas proposed by the Oklahoma-based Williams Companies. The project would involve the construction of approximately 125 miles of new, 30-inch diameter, high pressure, liquid gas pipeline originating in northeastern Pennsylvania, extending through Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Schoharie Counties, in New York, and terminating at the Wright Compressor Station in the Town of Wright in Schoharie County.

In Schoharie County the pipeline is proposed to run through the following municipalities: Jefferson, Summit, Richmondville, Cobleskill, Middleburgh, Schoharie, and Wright.

The Constitution Pipeline would:

- **require the clearing of 1,872 acres of land;**
- **the destruction of approximately 700,000 trees on 1,034 acres of forest;**
- **cross 289 bodies of water, most of them cold-water trout streams;**
- **impact over 95 acres of wetlands, of which 34 acres are irreplaceable forested wetlands, climb or descend over 35 miles of steep slopes;**
- **have to blast through 45.5 miles of shallow bedrock;**
- **and provide gas for factories, power plants, and AI data centers along the I-88 corridor.**



Map of the pipeline running through Delaware & Schoharie counties with wetland, public water supplies, and buffer zone layers. Map courtesy of FracTracker.

Understanding Potential Impacts To Water, Land, Public Health, Infrastructure & Community Resilience

The proposed Constitution Pipeline would cross portions of New York before connecting with existing natural-gas infrastructure in Schoharie County. As federal review of the project continues, municipalities along the proposed route have an opportunity to consider the potential local implications of construction and long-term operation.

For town governments, several areas warrant careful review:

WATER RESOURCES

- What streams, wetlands, groundwater resources, and drinking-water supplies could be affected during construction or operation?
- What protections would be in place at stream and wetland crossings?
- How would erosion, sedimentation, spills or accidental releases be prevented and addressed?
- How would impacts to private wells be monitored and remedied?
- Who would be responsible for long-term monitoring and remediation if water resources were affected?

FORESTS, HABITAT & AGRICULTURAL LAND

- How much forest, agricultural land, and other natural habitat would be cleared or disturbed?
- How would habitat fragmentation and impacts to wildlife be addressed?
- What restrictions would apply to vegetation and land use within the permanent right-of-way?
- How would soil productivity, drainage, and agricultural operations be protected?
- What measures would be used to prevent the spread of invasive species?

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- What emergency-response requirements would the pipeline create for local fire departments, EMS, and municipal emergency-management personnel?
- What training, equipment, and information would local responders receive?
- What emergency procedures would apply in the event of a leak, rupture, fire, or other incident?
- How would emergency response be coordinated across municipalities?
- Would municipalities incur additional costs for emergency-preparedness and response?

ROADS & MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- What local roads, bridges, culverts, and drainage systems would experience construction-related traffic?
- What agreements would ensure that damage to municipal infrastructure is documented and repaired?
- How would construction traffic affect emergency access and other community services?
- What responsibilities would remain with municipalities after construction is completed?

LANDOWNERS & FUTURE LAND USE

- What long-term restrictions would pipeline easements place on private property?
- How could the right-of-way affect farming, forestry, development or conservation plans?
- How would landowners be informed about inspection, maintenance, and vegetation-management requirements?
- What mechanisms would exist for addressing future property or land-use concerns?

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FLOODING & CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- How would construction account for floodplains, steep slopes, and areas vulnerable to erosion?
- Could alteration of wetlands, soils or drainage patterns affect downstream flooding or water quality?
- How would the project be designed to account for changing precipitation patterns and extreme weather?
- What measures would protect infrastructure and water resources during major storm events?
- Does the pipeline run across or close to any waterbodies that are prone to flooding that would put the pipeline at risk for damage and therefore increase the threat of contamination or explosion?

PROJECT NEED & PUBLIC BENEFIT

- What is the demonstrated need for the proposed pipeline capacity?
- What existing infrastructure would the pipeline connect to, and how would that infrastructure be used?
- What alternatives have been evaluated?
- What are the anticipated benefits to communities along the route?
- How do those benefits compare with the project's long-term environmental, land-use, safety, and infrastructure implications?
- Would additional infrastructure need to be considered given the additional load of the pipeline? (E.g., additional compressor stations)

Questions for Local Decision-Makers

Before construction or permitting decisions are made, municipalities may wish to ensure that they have clear, site-specific information regarding::

- Water-resource protection
- Emergency response and public safety
- Municipal infrastructure and road impacts
- Agricultural and forest resources
- Property and land-use considerations
- Long-term monitoring and maintenance
- Financial responsibility for potential impacts
- Project need, alternatives, and anticipated public benefit

Municipal Resources & Next Steps

Town officials may wish to establish a clear source of information for residents and ensure that municipal staff and advisors have access to current project documents.

Key resources

- FERC: Federal certification, project filings, environmental review, and public proceedings. Search FERC Dockets CP13-499 and CP18-5.
- NYSDEC: State environmental review, water-quality requirements, wetlands, streams, and project history.
- Town Attorney: Questions concerning municipal authority, land use, property interests, infrastructure, and participation in regulatory proceedings.
- County Emergency Management & Local Fire/EMS: Emergency planning, responder training, pipeline information, and coordination.
- Independent Technical Professionals: Engineers, hydrologists, environmental scientists, or other specialists who may assist municipalities in evaluating technical information when appropriate.

- Questions municipalities may wish to consider

- What aspects of the project fall under federal, state, county, and local jurisdiction?
- What information is available regarding impacts to local water resources, land, infrastructure, and public safety?
- What municipal costs or responsibilities could arise during construction, operation, or an emergency?
- What agreements or financial assurances address potential impacts to roads, bridges, drainage systems, or other municipal infrastructure?
- Do local emergency-response plans and resources adequately address a potential pipeline incident?
- Where can residents obtain current, primary-source information and submit questions or comments?

For reliable information, review current filings and agency documents directly whenever possible, noting the date, source, methodology, and geographic scope of information. Project status and regulatory requirements may change over time, so municipalities should consult current agency records and their municipal advisors.

The purpose of these questions is not to predetermine the outcome of the project, but to help communities understand its potential implications and ensure that public health, environmental resources, and municipal responsibilities are fully considered.