



NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

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The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

June 23, 2020

Dear Governor Murphy

We are very concerned about a public safety situation that is happening along the Southern Reliability Link (SRL) route in Monmouth, Ocean, and Burlington County. There have already been several serious incidents and violations involving the pipeline construction in Upper Freehold, Burlington County, and in Plumsted Township. We are concerned about the security and integrity of the pipeline. We ask that you put a stay on the pipeline project and conduct a complete investigation of the project to fix and deal with any problems from the pipeline.

As you know, the NJ Sierra Club, Pinelands Preservation Alliance and local townships are in court over the SRL. We have asked you, the Board of Public Utilities, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and the Pinelands Commission but all have refused. Since you have allowed NJNG to continue construction their pipeline at their own risk, there have been many problems and a home has been destroyed. This administration is siding with NJNG against the environment and homeowners. We at least want you to stop the project until we have our day in court and there is a thorough investigation conducted.

Last week a homeowner in Upper Freehold whose house is next to the SRL pipeline, heard an explosion in her home. She discovered huge cracks in her foundation, her basement floor and even her walls. This was caused by a blowout from horizontal directional drilling ("HDD") that came through the ground and moved the resident's basement slab, destabilizing the house. A Chesterfield Building Inspector condemned the resident's home due to a hydrological incident involving drilling for the SRL pipeline. The slab of the home cracked due to hydrostatic pressure and the building inspector advised the residents to leave for their safety. This was the 2nd or third incident involving SRL in the same area.

We are hearing reports along the pipeline route in Monmouth, Ocean, and Burlington county about problems with the building of the pipeline. What appears to be spills, potential sink holes, and materials from drilling in streams and ditches.

In Burlington County we have been hearing many different reports along the route with three or four incidents from people. Burlington County issued a stop work for NJNG's SRL pipeline until they comply with new permit requirements. This is the 2nd stop work order issued by the county. In May, New Jersey Natural Gas continued the construction of their Southern Reliability Link pipeline in Burlington along Province Line Road despite an immediate stop work order issued by Burlington County. Unpermitted work was being performed on one (1) of four (4) bridge and road structures that are owned jointly by



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Burlington and by Monmouth Counties that are located on Province Line Road, a municipal roadway, and that unpermitted work was verified by Burlington County staff. NJNG's contractor, ULS, had horizontally directional-drilled under two (2) structures (Burlington County Bridge G 2.5 and Culvert G2.4), and that the contractor was preparing to work under a third structure (Culvert G2.2). This work was performed without permission of the County of Burlington, and no permit has been issued by the County for the performance of that work.

Just yesterday in New Egypt of Ocean County on Fisher and West Colliers Mill, near the SRL construction, a pipe collapsed causing a sinkhole. Roads will be closed for several weeks for repair. This incident is similar to what happened on the Delaware with Tenneco Gas. We have been talking with residents living along the route of pipeline and have heard at least three or four incidents involving construction for the pipeline.

There has been concerns with pipeline construction and contractors proven guilty of falsifying welding test results for the Mariner East natural gas pipeline. That is why we need to be vigilant and on top of what is going on during the SRL construction. This is especially important since the route is so close to people's homes.

After the past few months of violations, blowouts, and more during construction of the pipeline, there needs to be an investigation on how the SRL pipeline has been built so far and the next stretch forward. You must also put a stay on any type of construction until issues are resolved. We are concerned for the safety of the residents living along this route and want to make sure they are safe and protected. We have asked Michael F. Stonack, P.E, Pipeline Safety Program Manager of the BPU to investigate and hope that you will as well.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to call me at (609) 558-9100.

Sincerely,

Jeff Tittel, Director

New Jersey Sierra Club



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