

# Fracking & New Jersey

On January 17, 2013, New Jersey's 1 year Fracking moratorium expired. The moratorium went into effect last year after Governor Christie conditionally vetoed an outright ban on fracking, replacing it by a one year suspension. **The Governor also vetoed the Fracking Waste Ban Bill that was approved by the Legislature this past year, leaving New Jersey vulnerable to the wastes produced by fracking in other states!** As the gas fracking moratorium gas ends, environmental leaders are calling on the Legislature and Governor to protect us from the dangers of fracking, starting with an override of the Governor's veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill which is urgently needed to prevent fracking waste from being disposed of in NJ.

Fracking waste presents an immediate threat to New Jersey — facilities have already been accepting fracking wastewater, sludge, and drill cuttings. This legislation is the only way to keep this toxic waste from being disposed of in NJ. **Fracking waste contains hundreds of contaminants, including dangerous chemicals and radioactive compounds.** Due to an exemption in federal law, the gas industry is not required to disclose the specific chemicals used in the process, and with these unknowns it is impossible to know the full threat fracking waste presents or how to fully and safely treat the waste. The Frack Waste Ban Bill would prevent fracking waste from being discharged, treated and disposed of in New Jersey.

**During Hurricane Sandy over 20% of New Jersey's wastewater treatment facilities failed, spewing raw and partially treated waste into New Jersey's waterways.** Stormwater can also flood the pipes entering treatment plants causing combined sewer overflows with hazardous materials entering waterways. If we allow fracking waste to be dumped and treated in NJ, that waste could also be discharged without proper treatment, during a severe weather event.

**The Delaware River Basin Commission** is made up of the Governors of New York, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and an Army Corps of Engineers representative. Two years ago the DRBC was supposed to vote on allowing for drilling in the Delaware River Basin. The Delaware River Basin provides the water supply for 15 million people — 3 million in South Jersey, Philadelphia, and New York City. Thanks to thousands of emails, calls, and our Rally in Trenton, we were able to stop the vote to allow this drilling. However, this can come up at any time and we have been watching the DRBC very closely. Drilling in the Delaware River Basin directly affects the water supply for 15 million people and the Sierra Club is continuing to work to make sure the vote does not occur.



New Jersey Chapter, Sierra Club ■ [newjersey.sierraclub.org](http://newjersey.sierraclub.org)

## *Fracking = Pipelines!*

Fracking creates a glut of natural gas in Pennsylvania that drillers want moved to high-priced East Coast markets. **To export that fracked gas, companies are requesting new and expanded pipeline projects across New Jersey's public lands, environmentally sensitive areas, and residential communities.** These projects also call for new or upgraded compressor stations, increasing toxic air and climate change pollution in our state. We have seen pipeline explosions across the country where people have been killed and property destroyed. Right now there are four projects being proposed or constructed in NJ, and more are expected with the continued expansion of fracking in the Marcellus Shale.

**Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP)** has proposed two projects that devastate public lands and impact drinking water supplies in the Highlands Preservation area of Sussex, Passaic, and Bergen Counties. The 300 Line project was completed in November 2011 and resulted in the destruction of **Lake Lookover** in West Milford. Additional waterways along the project have seen heavy erosion, and flooding has increased in surrounding areas. The pipeline crosses through **Walkill National Wildlife Refuge, Newark watershed lands, Wawayanda State Park, and Long Pond Ironworks State Park.**

Almost 50% of TGP's second project, the Northeast Upgrade, is located on publically owned land. The pipeline will cross and destroy portions of the **Appalachian Trail, High Point State Park, Long Pond Ironworks State Park, Ringwood State Park, and Ramapo County Reservation.** Drinking water supplies could be jeopardized as the pipeline will cross under the **Delaware River** and the **Monksville Reservoir** in Wanaque, potentially impacting over 5 million state residents. The Sierra Club is currently preparing to challenge the pipeline's approvals in Appellate Court.

**Transcontinental Pipeline Company (Transco)** has received approvals for the Northeast Supply Link project which includes installing a new pipeline in Hunterdon County, increasing the pressure in their existing pipeline in Essex, Passaic, Hudson, and Bergen Counties, and expanding their compressor station in Roseland next to county open space. This project crosses the Highlands and the Meadowlands and travels underneath the South Branch of the Raritan River which supplies clean drinking water to approximately one million people. The area where the pipe travels underneath the Raritan is preserved open space and critical habitat to a number of threatened or endangered species. On some properties the new pipeline will be less than 50 feet away from people's homes. The Sierra Club is also challenging this project.

The **Spectra Energy Pipeline** will go through our state's most densely populated communities, Bayonne, Jersey City and off the shore of Hoboken into New York City. This area is already burdened with excessive pollution and adding this pipeline will put residents at risk and degrade the public health and the environment of this area. Construction is proposed on contaminated sites. The pipeline will impact freshwater wetlands, water bodies, and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Transco is now proposing the Leidy Southeast Expansion Project to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This pipeline would cross through the environmentally sensitive Princeton Ridge region. Like other pipelines across New Jersey, it would carry gas produced by fracking in the Marcellus Shale, contributing to major pollution and climate change impacts. This project would install over 12 miles of 42 inch pipeline in New Jersey. The Skillman Loop would run 6.36 miles through Princeton and Montgomery Townships. The Pleasant Run Loop would run 6.85 miles in Branchburg, Readington, and Clinton Townships. The Pennsylvania portions of the project are in Luzerne and Monroe counties.

**The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club is working to save our state from these projects. If YOU would like to get more involved in fighting the pipes please contact [kate.millsaps@sierraclub.org](mailto:kate.millsaps@sierraclub.org) for more information on pipelines around the state.**