FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, October 26th, 2017

Contact: Tom Hoffman, tom.hoffman@sierraclub.org

Our Water Campaign applauds PWSA Board for passing moratorium on water shutoffs for low income residents

Widely Opposed Pipeline was Recently Granted a Water Permit Moving it Closer to Approval

Pittsburgh, PA -- This morning, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) Board voted to temporarily stop residential water shutoffs for low income city residents. For months, the Our Water Campaign has been lobbying PWSA to pass a winter moratorium on shutoffs much like other utilities have done, at least until they’ve created a Customer Assistance Program.

“PWSA has taken an historic step by passing a moratorium on water shutoffs for our most vulnerable city residents. This would not have been possible if our water authority was not a democratically controlled asset with a board that is accountable to the public. They heard our concerns, and they did the right thing. We’ve worked closely with PWSA Board members and with Councilwoman Deb Gross, and we thank them for their steadfast commitment to ensuring affordable water for low-income city residents,” said Aly Shaw, environmental justice organizer at Pittsburgh United, the organization that convenes the Our Water Campaign table.

Water shutoffs not only burden low-income families by making simple tasks like cooking, cleaning, and bathing more difficult, but they are particularly unsafe in homes with young children, the sick, and the elderly. Water shutoffs can increase the presence of lead in a family’s drinking water once water service is restored.

###