

The Northeast Supply Enhancement (“NESE”) Project

Impacts from the Resuspension of Toxic Sediment

Williams/Transco is proposing to build a massive new fossil fuel expansion project called the Northeast Supply Enhancement (“NESE”) Project.

If approved the project will result in widespread significant environmental harm.

The project also poses risks to public health and safety from the resuspension of toxic sediment.

What is Being Proposed?

- The construction of: (1) a massive new gas-fired compressor station in Franklin Township, Somerset County, and (2) a 23.4 mile fossil fuel pipeline that will rip through New Jersey, Raritan Bay, and Lower New York Bay to bring fracked-methane gas from Pennsylvania, through New Jersey to New York City and Long Island, NY.

Overall Resuspension:

- The construction and installation of the offshore pipeline involves **dredging a trench through Raritan Bay, Lower New York Bay and the ocean**. As the nation’s oldest industrial waterway, for decades Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay were subject to widespread contamination. While we have seen dramatic improvements in the water quality of the area in recent years, the toxic legacy remains buried in the sediment of these water bodies. **Dredging the channel for the proposed pipeline will resuspend over 1,000,000 tons of toxic-laden sediment**.
- This sediment is contaminated with toxins such as PCBs, dioxin, lead, and arsenic. The **disruption of the seabed will re-suspend these toxins**, damaging the marine environment and affecting the populated shorelines.
- Approximately 83% of soil samples from Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay exceed New York and New Jersey water quality standards. In fact, 33% of samples had excessive amounts of toxic organic pollution.
- **Resuspending the toxic sediment will destroy water quality, impacting the marine ecosystem and human health.**

Harm to Marine Life:

- The release of these toxins will be detrimental for benthic species and the entirety of the marine ecosystem. Long term consequences of these toxins have not been adequately studied. By the applicant’s most conservative estimate, **the impacts from the resuspension will take up to three years to subside**.
- Increased turbidity from dredging a 23.4-mile trench will **result in 1,090,000 tons of sediment to be released**. This will make it increasingly difficult for sea creatures to navigate and hunt.
- Horseshoe crabs in the area may be killed or injured due to excavation activities.

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Re-suspension and Harm to Human Health:

- The suspension of arsenic **could lead to cancer and other developmental and neurological diseases.**
- The re-suspension of the toxic contaminants will **reintroduce these harmful pollutants into the food chain**, risking human ingestion.
- Organic toxins, called **dioxins, will be suspended in this project.** Dioxins are highly toxic and bond to body fat, **making humans and animals highly susceptible to contamination.**

Disrupting a Superfund Site:

- The NESE pipeline will impact the Raritan Bay Slag Superfund Site. This is a highly-contaminated area containing lead, arsenic, antimony, copper, and magnesium. Williams/Transco has not adequately prepared to avoid further contaminating or disrupting this Superfund site.

Prepared by Clean Ocean Action, June 2021