

# The Proposed NESE Pipeline and Environmental Justice Impacts: Submit Comments to the NJDEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council!

## BACKGROUND

- ❖ There are over 250 [overburdened communities](#) (OBCs) that would be impacted by Williams Transco's proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Pipeline, out of the 3,671 in the entire state of New Jersey. OBCs are census block groups that meet at least one (but can meet more or all) of the following criteria set by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection:
  1. At least 35% low-income households
  2. At least 40% of the residents identify as minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community
  3. At least 40% of the households have limited English proficiency
- ❖ Each of the towns that would be impacted by the proposed NESE pipeline have varying proportions of overburdened communities in their total populations, with several being majority-OBC populations. The following towns have the majority of their populations (75% or more) classified as an overburdened community (*Total population according to US 2020 Decennial Census*):
  - **Perth Amboy:** 100% (total pop. of 55,436)
  - **South Brunswick:** 95% (total pop. of 47,043)
  - **Edison:** 94% (total pop. 107,588)
  - **Franklin (Somerset):** 88% (total pop. 68,364)
  - **Long Branch:** 81% (total pop. 31,667)
  - **Sayreville:** 77% (total pop. 45,345)
  - **Matawan:** 73% (total pop. 9,565)
- ❖ New Jersey's landmark [Environmental Justice Law](#), passed in 2020, requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to take environmental and public health impacts into consideration when reviewing permit applications. Any facility with disproportionate impacts on overburdened communities must have its permit application denied.
- ❖ Due to the high proportions of overburdened communities in several towns that the proposed NESE pipeline would directly impact, the approval of this project may violate New Jersey's Environmental Justice Law and impose disproportionate environmental and public health risks on overburdened communities.

## CALL TO ACTION

- ❖ **Bring NESE environmental justice concerns to the NJDEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council:**
  - EJAC is accepting comments in response to the question "What environmental justice issues should be prioritized in the next administration?" until **Friday, October 31st**.
  - Email your comments to [environmentaljustice@dep.nj.gov](mailto:environmentaljustice@dep.nj.gov).
  - Include your name and "EJAC Public Meeting Comment" in the subject line.
- ❖ **Written comment template:**

*Dear Environmental Justice Advisory Council,*

*One of the most important environmental justice issues that should be prioritized in the next administration is opposing the Williams Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement natural gas pipeline project, also known as NESE. This pipeline project would bring fracked methane gas to Long Island, New York and calls for a massive 2 engine gas-fired compressor station in Franklin, NJ, which would cut more than 23 miles through the Raritan Bay and connect to the Rockaway Lateral in the ocean off Long Island.*

*New Jersey would NOT receive any of the gas from the pipeline. However, we would bear the harmful impacts from the pipeline's emissions. There are over 250 overburdened communities in New Jersey that would be impacted by this proposed pipeline project and compressor station. The following towns that would be directly impacted have over three quarters of their populations classified as an overburdened community: Perth Amboy, South Brunswick, Edison, Franklin Township in Somerset County, Long Branch, and Sayreville. Per New Jersey's landmark Environmental Justice Law, this is required to be taken into consideration when reviewing Transco's permit applications. The pipeline and compressor station would have disproportionate impacts on overburdened communities, which is grounds for the denial of its permit applications.*

*New Jersey has made a commitment to prioritizing environmental justice through the Environmental Justice Law, and the next administration must uphold this priority. Therefore, the next administration must actively oppose the NESE pipeline due to its disproportionate environmental and public health risks on overburdened communities.*

*Sincerely,*

*[Insert your name here]*