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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATION COMMISSION



CONGRESSMAN SCOTT GARRETT

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TO: CHRIS MURRAY

FAX #: 202-208-2106

FROM: Christina Garfinkle, Constituent Services Officer

DATE: 2/7/2012

PAGES: 5 (INCLUDING COVER)

REMARKS:

2012-00020

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3005

February 7, 2012

Chris Murray
Director, Division of government Affairs
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 11H
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Mr. Murray:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Elaine Buchtman, who is experiencing a problem with her property. Ms. Buchtman believes FERC approved the deforestation on the steep slopes and the wet crossing, and she would like to know how FERC reached that decision.

I would appreciate your reviewing the enclosed documentation and providing me with a written response on regarding this issue. Please direct your response to Christina Garfinkle in my Glen Rock District Office, located at 266 Harristown Road, Suite 104, Glen Rock, NJ. The phone number is 201-444-5454.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you need additional information, please let my office know, and we will be happy to comply.

Sincerely,

Scott Garrett
Member of Congress

2012-00020

January 29, 2012

Dear Congressman Garrett,

In March of 2011, the Tennessee Gas Pipeline started construction on the TGP300 Line Project close to our lake. Steep slopes were stripped of all vegetation and from that time forward, there were 10 separate incidents from March to November 2011 of mud and silt finding its way into our lake from the construction site. This turned our pristine lake into a quagmire of mud and silt rendering it impossible to use or enjoy for the whole season.

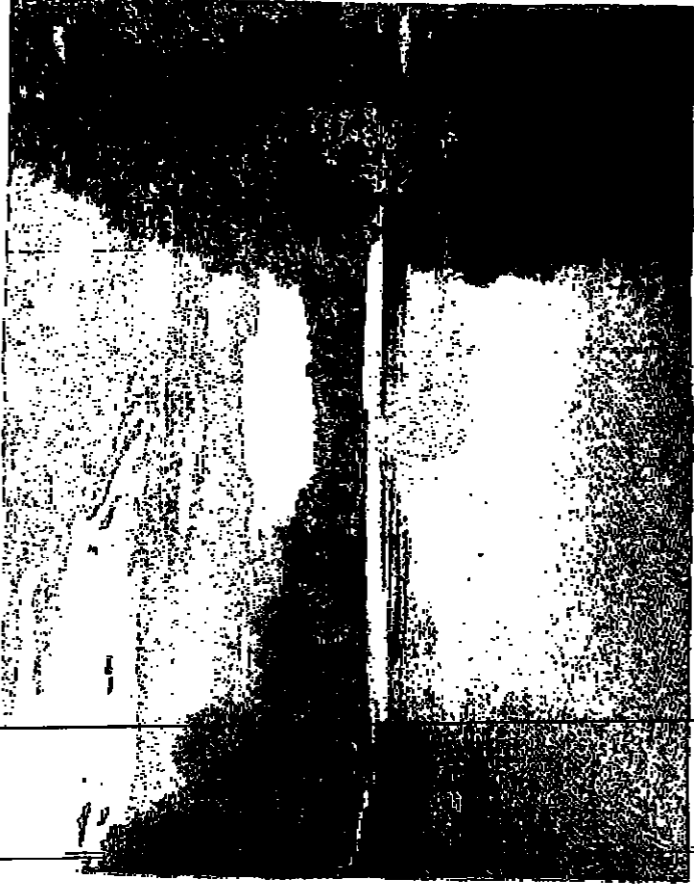
Lake Lookover, located in the highlands of Passaic County in the Township of West Milford is a small 15 acre lake comprised of 106 property owner that form our lake association. We are surrounded on 3 sides by state park lands and the streams that feed Lake Lookover are free of pollutants. It was devastating to see our beautiful lake repeatedly assaulted by silt and mud. The TGP made minimal effort to control the silt and mud and I was told FERC not only approved of the construction methods but relayed to the TGP at various inspections they were doing a "Good Job"! Other governmental agencies also approved these construction methods. In a phone conversation with Armand Perez of N.J.D.E.P., I was told no violations were issued as the TGP was in compliance and had broken no laws. How can that be?

To be allowed to destroy a whole season of enjoyment and use of the lake these property owners have paid dearly to use the lake should never be considered O.K. by Federal or State government agencies or private companies. The slopes are, as of February, 2012 still devoid of any vegetation setting the stage for an environmental nightmare for us if there are heavy rains come spring.

Some other concerns are:

1. Property values inability to sell our homes. Who wants to buy mud front houses or houses in a community with potentially ongoing problems?
2. Worry spring rains will continue to carry silt and mud into our lake.
3. Weed growth exploded in late summer due to poor turbidity and silt, acting as a nutrient for the weeds. What can be expected in the future with all that nutrient rich silt in the lake bottom? We fear uncontrollable weed growth for years to come.
4. Wildlife in and around the lake disappeared. Beavers left, herons and other waterfowl flew elsewhere, migrating waterfowl passed us by in the spring and fall and the greatest concern is how all this affected our fish and other aquatic animals.

Environmentally this was a disaster for our community and the blame can be shared by all government agencies involved in the permitting process for such projects. There were never any contingency plans in place just in case something didn't work. No plan B. The TGP set a course of construction and had no plan to deviate from it or pursue a better (other) way. Steep slopes should never be stripped of all vegetation and permits should never be issued for anyone seeking a permit to do so.



Summer 2010



November 2011