



*Examining the risks of new pipeline proposals in New Jersey a battleground state for companies seeking to market gas from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania.*

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## October 2017

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### **Enerplus Corp.: PennEast In-Service Delayed to 2Q 2019**

*Conflicting Timing Reflects Uncertainty*

During a corporate presentation in August at an oil and gas industry conference, Enerplus Corporation (NYSE: ERF), a developer of crude oil and natural gas assets in the United States and Canada and one of 12 shippers subscribed to the PennEast project, predicted the PennEast pipeline would be delayed by roughly another year - until the second quarter of 2019. Yet, also in August [PennEast spokesperson Patricia Kornick told the media](#) she hopes to have the project completed by the second half of 2018 - in conflict with the opinion of one of PennEast's shippers. FERC has yet to make a final decision on PennEast and PennEast still needs approvals from NJDEP and Delaware River Basin Commission, among other reviewing agencies.

The below slide from the Enerplus presentation shows PennEast delayed to Q2 2019:

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### ***Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind Poll***

### **NJ Voters Prefer Renewables to Gas; 60% Don't Think Gas Is Clean Energy**

*Voters concerned about inherent dangers of pipelines and willing to pay more on energy bills for renewables*

Proponents of the PennEast pipeline must face the stark reality that New Jerseyans overwhelmingly prefer clean, renewable energy to natural gas. In fact, in a [recent statewide poll](#) of NJ voters by Fairleigh Dickinson University's [PublicMind](#), three in five respondents (60%) said they do not view natural gas as clean energy. A strong majority of bipartisan voters polled also say they are willing to pay more for clean energy such as wind and solar, and agree NJ should adopt a goal of sourcing 80 percent of the state's energy from renewables by 2050.

Nearly 90% of those surveyed believe renewable energy is important to New Jersey's overall health, and nearly 75% are willing to pay \$5 to \$10 more per month on their energy bills for energy generated from solar and wind.

The poll identified other deep-seated concerns about gas pipelines:

- 87% are concerned about the seizure of private property for pipeline construction.
- Eight in 10 (79%) are concerned about the potential threats to public safety from pipeline ruptures or explosions.
- 80% are concerned about the risk pipelines pose to air and water quality, and 86% are concerned about the impact on natural areas and wildlife habitats.
- Three of four are concerned about pipeline development's role in causing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

Nearly seven in 10 (67%) say the number of jobs created through pipelines are not worth the environmental and health risks pipelines create, and that instead jobs should be created through clean, renewable energy projects.

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## **Groundbreaking Study Illuminates Affordable Alternatives to Harmful Fossil Fuels in New Jersey**

*Study underscores the need for greater efficiency, solar and offshore wind vs. building unnecessary, dangerous and damaging natural gas pipelines*

A team of energy experts from the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research and PSE Healthy Energy determined that New Jersey can lower emissions from electric generation and increase renewable energy and energy efficiency substantially by 2030 while saving ratepayers money. The report offers the most detailed cost analysis of clean energy alternatives in New Jersey to date.

<sup>3</sup>A Clean Energy Pathway for New Jersey" offers an affordable three-part strategy for New Jersey to cut emissions from electric power generation in half by 2030:

1. Improving energy efficiency savings to 2% per year
2. Continuing to expand solar power at historic growth rates
3. Developing 3.25 GW of New Jersey's vast offshore wind potential

As this strategy is implemented, reliance on natural gas – the primary source of emissions from the electric sector – would decline. The report notes that there are many pathways to achieving affordable reductions, and presents one example of a pathway to reach that critical goal.

<sup>3</sup>There is broad public support for moving to clean, renewable energy. This study provides achievable, affordable, and essential steps to realize that future much sooner than many people think,<sup>2</sup> said Tom Gilbert, campaign director, New Jersey Conservation Foundation and ReThink Energy NJ, which commissioned the study.

The report was released at a time when both candidates for Governor have expressed concerns about review of gas pipelines and support for renewable energy, including offshore wind.

Co-author of the study and president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Dr. Arjun Makhijani, emphasized that the overall cost of reducing electricity sector carbon emissions 50% by 2030 is similar to the present fossil fuel-intensive course, even before adding in the benefits of lower pollution, reduced water usage and improved public health.

***<sup>3</sup>It's clearer than ever that New Jersey must move forward with clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency if we want to meet our critical emissions reduction goals. We will continue to work tirelessly to redirect our state's energy path to meet this goal – because there is no time to lose.*** - Christopher <sup>3</sup>Kip<sup>2</sup> Bateman, NJ Senator (R-16)

***<sup>3</sup>With this groundbreaking research, we have for the first time, real data on the table that show how realistic, achievable, and affordable it is to move more swiftly to renewable energy like wind and solar.***<sup>2</sup> - Andrew Zwicker, NJ Assemblyman (D-16)

***"Clean energy is not only affordable, it is essential to building our state's economy with new businesses, good jobs, new technologies, and an energy future that reduces our impact on climate change. We can't afford not to."***<sup>2</sup> - Jeanne Fox, former president, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

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## About

**ReThink Energy Investments** is a publication of ReThink Energy NJ. The newsletter looks at the risks facing new pipeline proposals in New Jersey, a battleground state for companies seeking to bring to market natural gas from the Marcellus Shale.

ReThink Energy NJ empowers New Jersey citizens by informing them about the need for reduced use of fossil fuels and pipelines that threaten our state's preserved lands, water, environment, public health, and communities. Our goal is a swift transition to efficient, clean and renewable energy.

ReThink Energy NJ is supported by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association and Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

**For more information**, visit [rethinkenergynj.org](http://rethinkenergynj.org) and find ReThink Energy NJ on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@rethinkenergynj](#).

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