

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC FORUM**

**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry**

**Notice of Public Forum on Proposed No Net Loss Reforestation Plans for High Point State Park (Montague and Wantage Townships, Sussex County), Long Pond Ironworks State Park (West Milford Township and Ringwood Borough, Passaic County) and Ringwood State Park (Ringwood Borough, Passaic County, and Mahwah Township, Bergen County).**

**Take Notice** that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Division of Parks and Forestry (Division), as part of the New Jersey No Net Loss Reforestation Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1L-14.1 et seq.), will conduct two Public Forums to allow Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (“Tennessee”) to present its plans for deforestation and reforestation on State- owned lands associated with the installation of two natural gas pipeline loops proposed by Tennessee, as part of it Northeast Upgrade Project (the “Project”). Tennessee submitted one reforestation plan for each loop and, therefore, NJDEP will conduct two public forums to present and take comment on each plan.

The New Jersey portion of the Project consists of two natural gas pipeline loops, referred to as “Loop 323” (a portion of which is located in Pennsylvania) and “Loop 325”. As proposed to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) in March 2011, the Project is approximately 17.61 miles in length in New Jersey and extends west to east, traversing Sussex, Passaic and Bergen Counties. Approximately ten miles of the New Jersey portion of Loop 323 will be located in Sussex County, with 7.6 miles for Loop 325 located within Passaic and Bergen Counties. As proposed, the Project will be located primarily within Tennessee’s existing pipeline right of way and adjacent to its existing pipeline, to the extent practicable, feasible, and in compliance with existing law. The State lands proposed to be crossed by Loop 323 include lands in High Point State Park in Montague and Wantage Townships, Sussex County. The State lands proposed to be crossed by Loop 325 include lands in Long Pond Ironworks State Park, in West Milford Township and Ringwood Borough, Passaic County, and in Ringwood State Park, Ringwood Borough, Passaic County, and Mahwah Township, Bergen County.

Each Reforestation Plan, as well as informational documents and supporting mapping, will be made available to the public at the respective Public Forum. Each Reforestation Plan will also be posted on the NJDEP website, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/index.html>, and will be available to the public at the Municipal Clerk’s offices in the municipalities in which the impacted State-lands are located beginning on the date of each Public Forum.

The Public Forums will be held on the following dates:

For Loop 323: Wednesday, August 3, 2011 at 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the Montague Municipal Building, 277 Clove Road, Montague, New Jersey 07827

For Loop 325: Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. at the Ringwood Municipal Building, 60 Margaret King Avenue, Ringwood, New Jersey 07456

At each Public Forum, representatives from the Division and Tennessee will be available to provide project information and to answer questions. The public will be given the opportunity to provide both oral and written statements. The public comment period will remain open for sixty (60) days following each Public Forum, and will close on Monday, October 3, 2011 for both Reforestation Plans. Written statements may be submitted either at the Public Forum or may be sent to Mary Ferraro, Regional Forester, NJDEP at the address provided below.

For further information on the Reforestation Plans for Loops 323 and 325, please contact:

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