

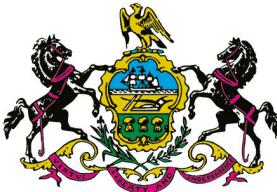
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Majority Leader



COMMITTEES

RULES & EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, CHAIR

EMAIL: jpittman@pasen.gov
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Senate of Pennsylvania

Submitted by email to RA-EPNPDES_NWRO@pa.gov

February 9, 2026

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Northwest Regional Office (NWRO)
Clean Water Program
230 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335

RE: Proposed Consent Decree Between DEP and Keystone-Conemaugh Projects, LLC
(Key-Con) Court of Common Pleas of Indiana County

To Whom It May Concern:

As Senate Majority Leader representing Pennsylvania's 41st District, which encompasses vital energy infrastructure like the Keystone and Conemaugh Generating Stations, and joined by my colleagues in the Senate Republican Caucus, I submit these comments in strong support of the proposed Consent Decree between the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Keystone-Conemaugh Projects, LLC (Key-Con). This agreement represents a pragmatic approach that successfully achieves both environmental compliance and the preservation of critical baseload power generation.

For decades, the Keystone and Conemaugh Generating Stations have been cornerstones of Pennsylvania's economy and energy security. These plants directly employ over 1,000 workers and sustain thousands more in supply chains, including coal mining and transportation. They contribute nearly \$5 million annually in property taxes alone, supporting local schools, governments, and communities in Armstrong and Indiana Counties.

Premature closure of these plants will devastate local economies and exacerbate grid vulnerabilities. The Consent Decree allows these stations to continue operating responsibly beyond 2028, avoiding such outcomes.

Given the escalating reliability crisis at PJM Interconnection, this decree is particularly timely. PJM's December 2025 Base Residual Auction procured only 134,479 MW of unforced capacity, falling short by 6,623 MW of reliability requirements and yielding a mere 14.8% reserve margin, well below PJM's 20% target. Factors like surging data center demand and rapid retirements of dispatchable resources threaten blackouts, as warned in NERC's 2025 Reliability Risk Priorities Report. Key-Con's 3.4 GW of coal-fired capacity provides proven, weather-resilient power, as demonstrated during Winter Storms Uri, Elliott and Fern.

The Consent Decree strikes an essential balance: It enforces the regulatory requirements under the Clean Streams Law and the federal Effluent Limitations Guidelines (ELGs) (e.g., Bottom Ash upgrades by 2026 and FGD wastewater by 2028) while granting flexibility to transition from a 2028 cessation to a compliance pathway. This further aligns with Pennsylvania's withdrawal from RGGI in November 2025, which I opposed as a job-killing carbon tax that would have quickly devastated plants like Keystone and Conemaugh.

Approving this decree and allowing the continued operation of these plants will safeguard jobs and bolster grid stability, while also ensuring protection of our natural resources. I urge DEP to enter the decree promptly, sending a clear signal that Pennsylvania prioritizes a true "all-of-the-above" energy strategy for a resilient future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



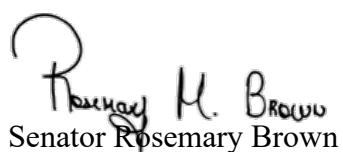
Senator Joe Pittman



David G. Argall
Senator David Argall



Camera Bartolotta
Senator Camera Bartolotta



Rosemary M. Brown
Senator Rosemary Brown



Lynda Schlegel Culver
Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver



Lisa Baker
Senator Lisa Baker



Michele Brooks
Senator Michele Brooks

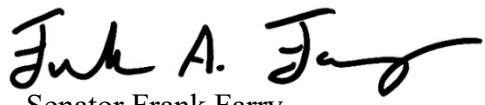


Jarrett Coleman
Senator Jarrett Coleman



Cris Dush
Senator Cris Dush

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
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Frank A. Farry



Scott C. Hutchinson

Senator Scott Hutchinson

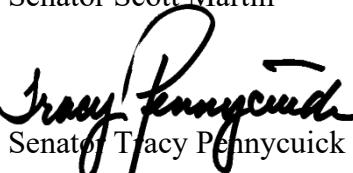


Wayne Langerholc, Jr.

Senator Wayne Langerholc, Jr.



Scott Martin



Tracy Pennycuick

Senator Tracy Pennycuick



Joe Picozzi



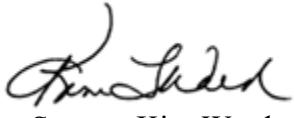
Greg Rothman

Senator Greg Rothman



Elder Vogel, Jr.

Senator Elder Vogel, Jr.

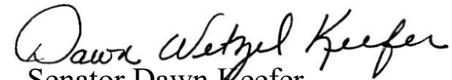


Kim Ward

Senator Kim Ward

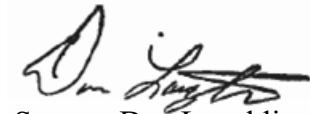


Chris Gebhard



Dawn Keefer

Senator Dawn Keefer



Dan Laughlin



Doug Mastriano

Senator Doug Mastriano



Kristin Phillips-Hill

Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill

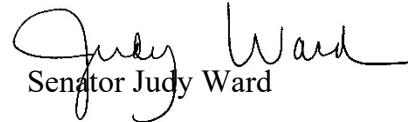


Devlin Robinson



Pat Stefano

Senator Pat Stefano



Judy Ward

Senator Judy Ward



Gene Yaw

Senator Gene Yaw

cc: The Honorable Jessica Shirley
Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection