

Resolution Opposing the Northeast Expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Massachusetts

WHEREAS, a proposed High-Pressure Pipeline and a lateral pipeline carrying natural gas may come through Pepperell and our neighboring communities, en route to Dracut, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, said pipeline contravenes current Massachusetts commitments to renewable energies and combating global climate change; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline would transport natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing, a drilling method well known for its potential for ground water contamination, impact on air quality, and the harmful health effects of its chemical byproducts, among others; and

WHEREAS, a high-pressure gas pipeline, by its nature, carries the potential for leak, rupture or devastating explosion causing untold damage to property and lives; and

WHEREAS, said pipeline would destroy unknowable amounts of forest, wetlands, conservation land and farmland, and would pass beneath the Nashua and Nissitissit Rivers, and require maintenance in perpetuity of a 50 foot right-of-way through the possible use of herbicides; and

WHEREAS said pipeline would adversely affect property values, adversely affect residents' livelihood and otherwise negatively impact the integrity of the town's bucolic character; and

WHEREAS, the cost of said pipeline would require Massachusetts citizens to pay a utility bill tariff, as well as environmental costs not required by law for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("TGP", a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.), making ratepayers bear financial risk for the endeavors of a private corporation; and

WHEREAS, our energy challenges are better addressed through investments in energy conservation measures as well as green and renewable energy solutions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the people of Pepperell, Massachusetts

1. Hereby call on our Selectmen to stand in opposition to Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.'s Northeast Expansion pipeline and not allow it within town borders;
2. Stand in opposition to all similar projects that may be later proposed;
3. Oppose any pipeline carrying natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing, within the borders of our Commonwealth; and
4. Hereby instruct our state and federal legislators and executive branch officials to enact legislation and take any such other actions as are necessary to disallow such projects that go against our commitments to life, the environment, our economic well-being and our bodily safety, and, instead, to legislate more stringent energy efficiency and further exploration of and subsidies for renewable energy sources.