

MUNICIPAL COALITION AGAINST THE PIPELINE
NH MUNICIPAL PIPELINE COALITION
NORTHEAST MUNICIPAL GAS PIPELINE COALITION

November 20, 2015

Washington, DC

Dear Members of Congress representing Massachusetts and New Hampshire:

The Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition, the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline, and the NH Municipal Pipeline Coalition are regional groups of municipal officials who meet to review and assess the potential impacts of Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan's Northeast Energy Direct (NED) project. Our communities represent thirty-eight (38) municipalities, home to more than 375,000 people in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. We write today to ask you to help us convince the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to combine the proposals for additional gas pipeline capacity in New England into one consolidated FERC review. These projects constitute alternative solutions to the same potential need in our New England region and must be reviewed together collectively.

We greatly appreciate the efforts many of you have already undertaken to raise this issue. In comments presented to FERC at Scoping Meetings in Dracut on August 11th and in Lunenburg in August 12, Rep. Tsongas asked FERC, "*to consider viewing the numerous natural gas pipeline projects pending or approved in New England in a holistic manner to ensure that we are not overbuilding our pipeline infrastructure for domestic need.*"¹

Representative Kuster (D-NH) also made a similar request to FERC in her scoping comment letter of September 29.

Our request for consolidated review is attached. We echo Representative Kuster's call "*for a respectful, comprehensive, and transparent public review process for the pipeline.*"² We ask that you join us, your constituents, to amplify our voices as we work together to represent our communities in the pursuit of an open and transparent process to determine the energy requirements of our region and the least impactful way of meeting any need that may exist.

¹ <http://tsongas.house.gov/press-releases/ferc-scoping-meeting-statements/>

² <http://kuster.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/kuster-sends-letter-to-ferc-calling-for-review-of-all-energy-projects-in>

Respectfully,



Jed Proujansky, Selectman, Northfield and Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline, including Ashfield, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange and Wendell MA.



Tad Putney, Brookline Town Administrator, Chair of New Hampshire Municipal Pipeline Coalition, including Amherst, Brookline, Fitzwilliam, Greenville, Litchfield, Mason, Merrimack, Milford, New Ipswich, Pelham, Richmond, Rindge, Temple, Troy and Winchester.



Stephen C. Themelis, Pepperell Board of Selectmen, co-chair of Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition, and



Stuart Schulman, Groton Board of Selectmen, co-chair of Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition, and



Andrew Sheehan, Townsend Town Administrator, co-chair of Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition, including Andover, Ashby, Dracut, Dunstable, Groton, Littleton, Lynnfield, North Reading, Peabody, Pepperell, Tewksbury, Townsend, and Wilmington MA, and Brookline, NH.

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Chairman Norman Bay
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Bay:

Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition, Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline, and NH Municipal Pipeline Coalition are regional groups of municipal officials who meet to review and assess the potential impacts of Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan's Northeast Energy Direct (NED) project. Our communities represent thirty-eight (38) municipalities,¹ home to over 375,000 people in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. We write today to ask the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to combine the proposals for additional gas pipeline capacity in New England into one consolidated FERC review. This should include, but not be limited to:

- Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan's Northeast Energy Direct (NED),
- Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan's Connecticut Expansion,
- Spectra's Atlantic Bridge,
- Spectra's Access Northeast,
- Portland Natural Gas Transmission System Continent to Coast (C2C) projects,
- existing and planned LNG infrastructure,
- and any other natural gas infrastructure proposal currently before FERC, whether in the pre-filing, or formal application phase, or being considered at the same time as the above pipeline proposals.

These projects constitute alternative solutions to the same potential need and must be reviewed collectively.

Combining the projects in one consolidated review would foster an open and transparent process for the needs analysis critical for FERC's decision on which projects, if any, may warrant the eminent domain authority associated with the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. Public need cannot be evaluated without consideration of other projects attempting to fill the same or similar need. Cities and towns cannot be forced to host a pipeline solely because an energy company would like to build one. Need must be

¹ In Massachusetts, Andover, Ashby, Ashfield, Conway, Deerfield, Dracut, Dunstable, Gill, Groton, Littleton, Lynnfield, Montague, New Salem, North Reading, Northfield, Orange, Peabody, Pepperell, Tewksbury, Townsend, Wendell, and Wilmington; in New Hampshire, Amherst, Brookline, Fitzwilliam, Greenville, Litchfield, Mason, Merrimack, Milford, New Ipswich, Pelham, Richmond, Rindge, Temple, Troy, Winchester.

evaluated taking into account competing projects as well as non-fossil fuel solutions such as solar, wind, small scale hydro, conservation, accelerated repair of leaks, and efficiency improvements. As we've already seen in Connecticut, gas demand projected by local gas companies is not being borne out by actual demand.²

Kinder Morgan acknowledges that the alleged need met by NED could be met by the competing projects,³ so it makes sense that all the projects be analyzed together to see which one, if any, or which combinations of projects, would satisfy any demand with the least impact to the environment and affected communities. Evaluating transmission projects without taking into consideration the other proposed projects is counter to the competitive model that is essential to American success. Only by comparing competing lines and the history of those companies do we get improvement through competition. In our estimation, these projects are redundant. This is clearly evident with existing projects such as the offshore LNG facilities that FERC determined were necessary but now sit underutilized.

FERC may think that the Commission does not plan or encourage various infrastructure projects, but that is not our perception. From an affected community's viewpoint, it appears the FERC deck is stacked very much in favor of the pipeline companies. Taken together, these five projects would nearly double the gas pipeline capacity in New England at the very time federal and state policies such as the U.S. Clean Power Plan, Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, MA Global Warming Solutions Act and NH Ten Year Energy Strategy are calling for drastic reductions in fossil fuels use.

Allowing the various proposals to go through the FERC process separately and then letting the "markets decide" is not in the best interest of our communities, states or the nation.

A letter sent by the Board of Selectmen in Townsend, MA⁴ describes the analysis we are requesting in more detail as do scoping comments submitted by the Massachusetts Attorney General⁵ and Conservation Law Foundation⁶, as well as NH U.S. Representative Kuster's⁷ recent letter to you.

We understand that our call for a consolidated review is not "business as usual" for FERC, but "business as usual" is unlikely to help us solve the very real energy issues facing our nation. We have seen, in our region, competing pipeline proposals result in a single pipeline with a Dracut terminus,⁸ so we understand a consolidated approach is not unprecedented. We know we face some tough energy choices. We also know FERC is facing a crisis in public trust. A decision by FERC to undertake the consolidated review we are requesting would go a long way to addressing both those issues.

² ["Falling Oil Prices Undermine Malloy's Gas Expansion Plan,"](#) *Hartford Courant*, Nov. 10, 2015. The Connecticut gas companies are over 25% short of their gas conversion goals under their approved expansion plans, despite the gas companies' ongoing efforts to convince residences and businesses to convert from oil to gas heating systems.

³ http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20150724-5061 - Northeast Energy Direct Project, Docket No. PF14-22-000, Draft Environmental Report, Resource Report 10, Alternatives, July 2015, page 10-2.

⁴ http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20151005-0053

⁵ http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20151019-5375

⁶ http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20151016-5317

⁷ <http://kuster.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/kuster-sends-letter-to-ferc-calling-for-review-of-all-energy-projects-in>

⁸ http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=19970213-0004 Abbreviated Joint Facilities Application of Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, LLC and Portland Natural Gas Transmission System, Docket No. CP97-238, pp. 6-10.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing your response.

The undersigned coalitions,



Jed Proujansky, Selectman, Northfield and Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline, including Ashfield, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange and Wendell MA.



Tad Putney, Brookline Town Administrator, Chair of New Hampshire Municipal Pipeline Coalition, including Amherst, Brookline, Fitzwilliam, Greenville, Litchfield, Mason, Merrimack, Milford, New Ipswich, Pelham, Richmond, Rindge, Temple, Troy and Winchester.



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CC:

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Senator Edward Markey

Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Senator Kelly Ayotte

Representative Richard Neal (MA-1)

Representative Jim McGovern (MA-2)

Representative Niki Tsongas (MA-3)

Representative Seth Moulton (MA-6)

Representative Frank Guinta (NH-1)

Representative Anne Kuster (NH-2)

Governor Charlie Baker

Governor Maggie Hassan

Attorney General Maura Healey

Attorney General Joseph Foster