



Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

protecting wetlands, open space and biological diversity through education and advocacy

Electronically filed with FERC

July 2, 2015

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C., Docket No. PF14-22-000
Northeast Energy Direct Project

Dear Ms. Bose:

I am writing for the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) regarding the above referenced project of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, a Kinder Morgan company.

The purpose of this letter is to support the June 30, 2015, request of the Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition that the National Environmental Policy Act scoping meetings be postponed until after Kinder Morgan has filed its revised Resource Reports and after there is adequate time to review the reports. In addition, the deadline for written and electronic comments should be similarly rescheduled to a later date. I ask that this letter be brought to the attention of Chairman Norman Bay.

For background, MACC is the professional association of Massachusetts conservation commissions. Each of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts has a conservation commission. Conservation commissions are the municipal government wetlands, wildlife and open space boards exercising the Police Power, Home Rule power, and public ownership of conservation, park, and natural resource properties as well as public easements, land restrictions, and other rights. Conservation commissions protect conservation lands and other natural resources in their communities under the Massachusetts Conservation Act (G.L. c.40, § 8c) and administer and enforce the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (G.L. c.131, § 40) and local home-rule municipal wetlands laws and regulations. MACC supports conservation commissions through education and advocacy. We have been doing that work since 1961.

On February 6, 2015, I filed written comments on the first draft of the Resource Reports. I did not comment on the second draft because that draft did not take my comments into consideration. Since then, Kinder Morgan has announced changes to the project and that it would submit another set of Resource Reports. I look forward to reviewing those Resource Reports to see how the project, and Kinder Morgan's assessment of impacts, may have evolved. It will take time to review the reports and write appropriate comments.

Conservation commissions in the municipalities that will be affected by the project have been closely following the FERC process. Many attended the project open houses earlier this year. I understand many of them intend to participate in the scoping meetings and comment in writing or electronically. MACC

intends to participate and comment. For those comments to be complete and comprehensive, the public, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies need adequate time to review and analyze the Resource Reports. That will be best accomplished by rescheduling the scoping sessions and comment deadline.

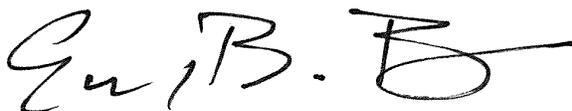
I also note that July and August are traditional vacation months in New England. Children are out of school and beaches, lakes, mountains, and rivers beckon. Many people are away from home for part of the summer. Holding scoping meetings during July and August assures a lower turnout at the meetings; it disadvantages people who have made vacation plans, often with family, which will take them out of town. That will also make it difficult for many people to file comprehensive written or electronic comments by the August 31 deadline set forth in the Notice of Intent.

I urge that the scoping meetings be rescheduled to take place at least thirty days after the new Resource Reports are filed, and not in July or August. I also urge that the deadline for written and electronic comments be rescheduled to September 30, or at least thirty days after the new Resource Reports are filed, whichever is later.

Please add me to the Commission's environmental mailing list for this project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene B. Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "B".

Eugene B. Benson
Executive Director
Email: eugene.benson@maccweb.org

Copy:

United States Senator Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator Edward Markey
Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matthew A. Beaton
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Martin Suuberg
Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition

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