



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

MAURA HEALEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(617) 727-2200
(617) 727-4765 TTY
www.mass.gov/ago

July 24, 2015

Chairman Stuart Schulman
Town Of Groton 173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Re: Proposed Northeast Energy Direct Project

Dear Chairman Schulman:

Thank you for contacting the Attorney General's Office regarding Tennessee Gas Pipeline's proposed Northeast Energy Direct pipeline project (the "NED Pipeline"). We value your input and appreciate the significance of the concerns you have raised.

Attorney General Healey is committed to a clean energy future in Massachusetts built around cleaner, renewable energy sources. Attorney General Healey remains committed to protecting ratepayers by ensuring that when the Commonwealth makes long term decisions about additional gas capacity investments, we do so on the basis of facts that show what the future demand is, and take into account all cost-effective sources that can be deployed to meet that demand, including energy efficiency, renewables, large scale hydropower, liquefied natural gas, and natural gas. Our office is actively participating in the Department of Public Utilities' (DPU) docket D.P.U. 15-37, which is investigating more broadly the question of the Commonwealth's gas capacity needs.⁴⁷

Our office is also participating in the pending DPU proceedings considering the petitions of National Grid, Columbia Gas, and Berkshire Gas for approval of contracts to purchase gas capacity on the proposed NED Pipeline (dockets D.P.U. 15-34, 15-39, and 15-48, respectively). We have moved to stay these contract review proceedings pending the outcome of D.P.U. 15-37, the DPU investigation concerning gas capacity.

In addition, our office is participating in the federal regulatory review process for the NED Pipeline—which includes federal environmental review of the proposed project—now underway at FERC. Public engagement in that process is encouraged, and you may wish to visit <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp> for more information.

⁴⁷ Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into the Means by which New Natural Gas Delivery Capacity may be added to the New England Market, D.P.U. 15-37.

Attorney General Healey is committed to ensuring that fragile environmental resources, conservation lands, and farmlands will be protected, property owners' rights will be respected, and the right balance will be struck between achieving long term environmental, climate, and energy goals.

To better understand the need for additional gas capacity in the New England region, our office will lead a regional study that will identify and evaluate options to address electricity reliability needs in New England through 2030. The study will include an evaluation of all potentially available energy resource options to meet reliability needs, including natural gas (both natural gas pipelines and LNG), oil, hydro imports, energy efficiency, demand response, and renewables. Our goal with this study is to identify the most cost-effective solutions for ratepayers that will also allow us to achieve our regional climate goals.

The Attorney General's Office is actively monitoring Tennessee Gas's plans and will continue to do so.

We will keep your communication on file. If you have any additional questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Brennan, III, Special Counsel for Energy Policy in the Energy & Environment Bureau, at 617.963.2086 or paul.b.brennan@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,



Matthew Ireland
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Protection Division