

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

January 15, 2016

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 (TGP/KM) Northeast Energy Direct (NED) project on FERC Docket CP16-21. Our communities represent forty (40) municipalities¹, home to over 390,000 people in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. We write today for two reasons:

1. To share our frustration over the current TGP/KM application (CP16-21) process, and
2. To ask for a response to our November 20, 2015 letter to you asking that Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) combine the proposals for additional gas pipeline capacity in New England into one consolidated FERC review.

We were disappointed that FERC chose to accept and notice the TGP/KM application after issues were raised about its completeness including a December 2, 2016 letter² from the six Regional Planning Commissions representing our region. After the December 21st and

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

² http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20151203-5136

December 30th responses to comments and environmental information requests, it is even more apparent that the application was not complete and will not be complete until at least the end April 2016 when TGP anticipates further submittals. The response to comments that TGP/KM did provide tended to be nonspecific and not useful to communities trying to assess potential impacts. Attorney Vincent DeVito summed up the situation well in a December 30, 2015 quote in the Greenfield Recorder³:

“TGP’s response is a continuation of its tactic of asking FERC and its stakeholders to wait until they gather more information. It is clear their filing was premature and that it remains grossly inadequate. Traditionally, filings are more fully baked before being presented to FERC. Filings buttressed mostly by forward looking statements may placate corporate shareholders but do not meet the requirements of FERC.”

It appears to us and our constituents that TGP/KM is making a mockery of FERC’s pre-filing process by not adhering to the commitments it requires. We would like to hear from you how FERC plans to hold TGP/KM accountable to provide the information needed by our communities and your staff to give adequate and timely consideration to this proposal with its substantial implications as is consistent with the Commission’s regulations.

On November 20, 2015 we wrote to you to ask that FERC combine the proposals for additional gas pipeline capacity in New England into one consolidated FERC review. This should include Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan’s Northeast Energy Direct (NED), Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan’s Connecticut Expansion (CEP), 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. Perhaps our letter was overshadowed at FERC by the TGP/KM application submittal later in the day. We are still waiting for a response to share with our citizens.

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

The undersigned coalitions,

³ <http://www.recorder.com/home/20271091-95/tennessee-gas-pipeline-co-responds-to-ferc-questions>



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



Cathy Richardson, Dracut Board of Selectmen, co-chair of Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition, including Andover, Ashby, Dracut, Dunstable, Groton, Littleton, Lunenburg, Lynnfield, North Reading, Peabody, Pepperell, Tewksbury, Townsend, and Wilmington MA, and Brookline, NH.

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