



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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September 30, 2014

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Joshua A. Degen
Chairman
Pipeline Working Group Committee
Town of Groton
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450-1237

RE: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC's Northeast Energy Direct Project

Dear Chairman Degen:

On behalf of Chair Berwick, I want to thank you for your letter of September 16, 2014 concerning Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC's ("TGP") proposed Northeast Energy Direct project ("NED").

As you may know, neither the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") nor the Energy Facilities Siting Board ("EFSB") has jurisdiction over the siting of the proposed pipeline. Rather, pursuant to the federal Natural Gas Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") has jurisdiction over this matter and will make the decision as to whether and where the pipeline should be sited, if at all.

EFSB will be an active participant in the pre-filing and Certificate phases of the FERC process. EFSB will be holding public forums to inform its position in the FERC process. In anticipation of this process commencing, Governor Patrick has already called on FERC to ensure transparency and ample public involvement opportunities.

CC - PIPELINE COMMITTEE

Joshua A. Degen

September 30, 2014

As you may also know, a gas company may petition the Department for authorization to survey certain properties. As of this date, TGP has not filed a petition with the Department seeking permission to survey properties in Massachusetts as part of the proposed NED. If TGP does file such a petition, landowners and others will have an opportunity to be heard. Since nothing has been filed with us, we have not yet determined the details of that public process.

Additionally, Massachusetts is conducting its own study to determine whether additional infrastructure is required to meet projected energy demand, and how to account for environmental, reliability, and cost considerations should new infrastructure be needed. Given the Commonwealth's climate goals, it is critical that any efforts to build additional natural gas infrastructure are limited to only what is determined to be necessary.

We share your views about the urgency of addressing our energy needs while protecting natural resources. As you know, the Patrick Administration has been extremely supportive of energy efficiency initiatives and has aggressively promoted the expansion of renewable sources of energy. Last November, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy ranked Massachusetts the number one state for energy efficiency, the third consecutive year that the Commonwealth has received that honor. The Governor has also set a goal of creating 1600 megawatts of solar power in Massachusetts by 2020 (up from 4 MW of installed solar power when he took office), and has been an outspoken supporter of offshore wind.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Collins
Chief of Staff

cc: Ann G. Berwick, Chair, DPU