



TOWN OF NORTHFIELD

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NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01360-1017

Selectboard

admin@townnfld.com
413.498.2901 x15

June 15, 2015

Mark D. Marini, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

by email attachment to:

Hearing Officer David J. Gold
david.j.gold@state.ma.us
and
dpu.efiling@state.ma.us

Docket 15-37

Dear Sir:

The Selectboard of the Town of Northfield respectfully questions the need for an increased gas transport capability in the Northeast.

Northfield will play host to 8.5 miles of the Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct Project and a proposed 80,000 hp compressor station. With this in mind the Town, in a town-wide ballot initiative, has rejected the placing of the pipeline and the compressor station within the community.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in a report released on June 9, 2015¹, peak natural gas capacity in the United States was 104.08 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) for 2014 (January was the peak month). In January 2015, it was 105.81 Bcf/d and it is projected to be 104.15 Bcf/d in 2016. This is near level capacity over three years. Where is the increased demand that Kinder Morgan and Berkshire gas are predicting?

According to ISO New England:

The size and timing of assumed pipeline expansions was also updated for Phase II, based on ICF's then current market recognition. The Phase I analysis assumed a phased capacity expansion on the Algonquin system (the Algonquin Incremental Market project, AIM) of 350 MMcf/d between 2015 and 2016. As of

¹ <http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/steo/report/natgas.cfm>

October 2013, the projected size of the AIM expansion was approximately 380 MMcf/d. Additionally, Tennessee Gas Pipeline launched an open season in July 2013 for its Connecticut Expansion Project, which would provide an additional 72 MMcf/d from Tennessee's existing interconnect with Iroquois in Wright, New York, to zone 6 delivery points on Tennessee's 200 line, as well as on the 300 line into Connecticut. Therefore, ICF current[ly] projects that by the end of 2016, contracted pipeline capacity into the New England market will increase by 450 MMcf/d, most likely on a combination of expansions on the Tennessee and Algonquin system[s].²

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline route mentioned in that quote is *not* part of the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Project that is being considered under this docket number; it is in addition to the NED Project. There are several proposals before FERC right now to increase gas capacity to the Northeast, as Attorney General Maura Healey has pointed out in her letter to you dated May 15, 2015. If each proposal is evaluated on its own merits, rather than part of an overall picture, we could see needless destruction of natural resources as new lines are built through our constitutionally protected forestland.

In a report prepared for Eversource Energy and Spectra Energy in February 2015, the following statement was made: "It is important to note that declining gas production in the Canadian Maritimes will likely prompt gas consumers in those provinces to turn to gas imports from New England to meet their heating and power generation needs".³ This need is not a need for the Northeast and we should not include this in any estimates of demand for gas capacity.

The ultimate question is that if we accept that energy "needs" will increase and therefore we need to increase supply then the approach by Kinder Morgan may be required. This assumption leaves out the issues of energy conservation and alternative sources of energy. We would rather assume that we have the existing amount of capacity and if the demand is going to increase we can work to decrease demand. This is both a more sustainable solution and one that is ultimately better for the consumer, the environment, and the citizens of Northfield.

Should you wish to contact us regarding this letter, please do so through our town administrator, Brian Noble, at 413-498-2901 x15.

Sincerely,



Tracy Rogers, Selectman

² http://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/2014/11/final_icf_phii_gas_study_report_with_appendices_112014.pdf

³ <http://accessnortheastenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ICF-Report-on-Access-Northeast-Project.pdf>