



NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE

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January 4, 2016

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Norman C. Bay, Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Bay,

We are writing on behalf of our constituents, the residents of Chesterfield Township New Jersey, to express our strong opposition to the Transco Compressor Station (Station #203).

Our office received hundreds of letters and phone calls regarding the negative impact this project will have on Chesterfield Township, as well as surrounding communities, and has brought to our attention the many inaccuracies stated in FERC's Environmental Assessment of the project (Docket #CP15-89). Chesterfield Township has submitted comments on the environmental assessment report, which explains each issue in detail.

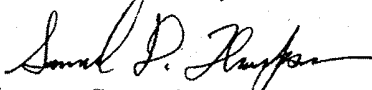
Examples of inaccuracies include:

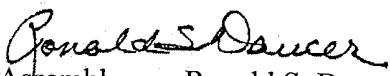
- The statement that there are no public or private wells identified within 150 feet and up to one mile of the site.
- Based on the documentation, there is no certainty the commission issued a notice of intent (NOI) to all affected landowners within 0.5 mile of the Compressor Station.
- Why did the section on "Air Emission Impacts and Mitigation" only list construction emissions.

We feel that the Commission did not comprehensively examine the potentially negative impacts the Compressor Station will have on the residents in the area and urge FERC to seriously consider Chesterfield Township's comments on the environmental assessment and our opposition to the project.

We look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,


Senator Samuel D. Thompson


Assemblyman Ronald S. Dancer


Assemblyman Robert D. Clifton

UPDATE #5

(Update #1 June 2015 - #2 July 2015 - #3 August 2015 - #4 December 2015)

DATE: January 2016

FROM: Assemblyman Ron Dancer

RE: New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) Southern Reliability Link Project
and TRANSCO Compressor Station.

- Testified in opposition to New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) application to the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) at public hearings on June 1, 2015 in North Hanover, July 28 in Manchester, and August 26 at Burlington County College.
- Met with the Governor's Office on July 13, 2016
- Met with Colonel Thaden and Representatives of Joint Base-McGuire-Dix headquarters on August 24th and was advised in a meeting on November 6th that there were serious numerous impacts to operational requirements that could negatively impact the mission of the Joint Base and, therefore, is no longer under consideration.

As your State Legislator Representative, I have introduced the following legislation:

Resolution pending introduction – Urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reject the application filed by Transco for the placement of a natural gas compressor station in Burlington County and opposing the Southern Reliability Link Pipeline project proposed by New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG).

***NEW Number A1713 (A4746) Requires BPU to hold public hearings on certain proposed intrastate natural gas pipelines; requires pipeline operator to provide written notice to property owners located within blast area of certain proposed intrastate natural gas pipelines. (ATU)**

***NEW #A1712 (A4745) Deems dispute between local government and pipeline operator concerning danger posed by certain natural gas pipelines as contested case. (ATU)**

***NEW #A1711 (A4744) Permits construction of natural gas transmission lines on areas of preserved farmland already subject to existing utility easements under certain circumstances. (AAN)**

***NEW #A1699 (A4455) Requires certain gas companies to use existing right-of-way (JCP&L) when constructing new transmission lines where practicable and to seek consent of municipalities prior to initiating certain projects.
Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee (ATU)**

***NEW #A1701 (A4501) Requires BPU to allow public comment at public meetings; establishes requirements for public meetings concerning installation of natural gas conductors and related facilities. (ATU)**

***NEW #A1702 (A4503) Prohibits the placement of certain intrastate natural gas pipelines within 100 feet of buildings. (ATU)**

***NEW #A1725 (A4902) Requires a pipeline operator to increase the current 100 foot written notice to property owners to include all property owners located within the defined "blast area." (ATU)**

PROPOSED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE NJ GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject the application filed by Transco for the placement of a natural gas compressor station in Burlington County, New Jersey, and opposing the Southern Reliability Link pipeline project as proposed by New Jersey Natural Gas.

WHEREAS, The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the federal agency in charge of reviewing applications for the construction and operation of interstate natural gas pipelines and compressor stations; and

WHEREAS, In February 2015, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco), a subsidiary of Williams Partners Company, submitted an application to FERC for authorization to construct and operate the Garden State Expansion Project; and

WHEREAS, The expansion project would extend Transco's interstate natural gas pipeline, which currently runs from southern Texas to New York City, to provide additional service to the New Jersey Natural Gas Company (NJNG); and

WHEREAS, NJNG would use this additional service to supply its proposed Southern Reliability Link (SRL) intrastate natural gas pipeline, which would run from Chesterfield Township, Burlington County, to Manchester Township, Ocean County, and which is currently being considered for approval by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; and

WHEREAS, The Garden State Expansion Project would include, among other things, construction of a 30,500 horsepower electric motor-driven natural gas compressor station in Chesterfield Township, near the border of Bordentown Township, Burlington County, which would pump and maintain the flow of natural gas through the pipeline; and

WHEREAS, The SRL pipeline would pass within 100 feet of over 140 homes along its proposed route, posing a hazard to the health and safety of residents living nearby if a natural gas leak or explosion were to occur; and

WHEREAS, At least two churches that run daycare facilities and a Green Acres preserved park are also located in very close proximity to the proposed compressor station; and

WHEREAS, Data from the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shows that numerous serious incidents involving natural gas systems occur each year, and the Garden State Expansion Project would not be immune to this risk; and

WHEREAS, Over the past three years, there have been explosions and fires at several Williams/Transco compressor stations – most recently in Branchburg, New Jersey, where 13 construction workers were injured and two were hospitalized; and

WHEREAS, Local firefighters have expressed concerns that they would not be able to extinguish a fire at the compressor station or SRL pipeline due to a lack of proposed staff at the compressor station and pipeline who could shut the gas off; and

WHEREAS, In addition to homes, churches, and recreational areas, there are also numerous private wells and septic systems servicing homes and businesses located within one mile of the proposed compressor station, which could be contaminated in the event of a gas leak; and

WHEREAS, Neither Transco nor FERC have evaluated the potential negative impacts to these resources and local infrastructure from the proposed compressor station and SRL pipeline; and

WHEREAS, The proposed compressor station and SRL pipeline would traverse and may negatively impact numerous significant natural areas, including the Pinelands region, and pose a risk of harm to the air, drinking water supplies, fish and wildlife, and other natural resources of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, The proposed compressor station and SRL pipeline would not provide natural gas service or benefits to any residents along the proposed route of the pipeline, and yet those residents would be forced to absorb the adverse environmental impacts and health and safety risks posed by construction and operation of these facilities; and

WHEREAS, The proposed SRL pipeline, which would receive natural gas from Transco's proposed compressor station, is not needed for the public service, convenience, or welfare, and therefore the compressor station is equally unnecessary and should be rejected; and

WHEREAS, Both Bordentown Township and Chesterfield Township have adopted resolutions opposing the proposed compressor station on various environmental, safety, and public policy grounds; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject the application filed by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco) for placement of a natural gas compressor station in Burlington County, New Jersey, and opposes the Southern Reliability Link pipeline project as proposed by New Jersey Natural gas because these projects are not necessary for the public service, convenience, or welfare, threaten the health and safety of residents, and risk harming the air, drinking water supplies, fish and wildlife, and other natural resources of the State of New Jersey.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the President of the Board of Public Utilities, each member of the New Jersey congressional delegation, the New Jersey State Senators and Assembly members for the 7th and 12th Legislative Districts, the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Bordentown, and the Mayors and Township Committee Members of Bordentown, Chesterfield, Mansfield, North Hanover, Plumsted, and Upper Freehold Townships.

STATEMENT

This resolution would urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reject the application filed by Transco for placement of a natural gas compressor station in Burlington County, New Jersey, and oppose the Southern Reliability Link pipeline project as proposed by New Jersey Natural Gas.

In February 2015, Transco submitted an application to FERC for authorization to construct and operate the Garden State Expansion Project. The project would extend Transco's interstate natural gas pipeline, which currently runs from southern Texas to New York City, to provide additional service to the New Jersey Natural Gas Company (NJNG). NJNG would use this additional service to supply its proposed Southern Reliability Link (SRL) natural gas pipeline, which would run from Chesterfield in Burlington County to Manchester in Ocean County, and which is currently being considered for approval by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. The expansion project would include, among other things, construction of a 30,500 horsepower electric motor-driven natural gas compressor station in Chesterfield near the border of Bordentown, which would "pump" and maintain the flow of natural gas through the pipeline.

The SRL pipeline would pass within 100 feet of over 140 homes along its proposed route, posing a hazard to the health and safety of residents living nearby if a natural gas leak or explosion were to occur. In addition, at least two churches that run daycare facilities and a Green Acres preserved park are located in very close proximity to the proposed compressor station. Data from the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shows that numerous serious incidents involving natural gas systems occur each year, and Transco's expansion project would not be immune to this risk. Over the past three years, there have been explosions and fires at several Williams/Transco compressor stations – most recently in Branchburg, New Jersey, where 13 construction workers were injured and two were hospitalized.

In addition to homes, churches, and recreational areas, there are also numerous private wells and septic systems servicing homes and businesses located within one mile of the proposed compressor station, which could be contaminated in the event of a gas leak. Neither Transco nor FERC have evaluated the potential negative impacts to these resources and local infrastructure from the proposed compressor station and SRL pipeline. The compressor station and pipeline would also traverse and may negatively impact numerous significant natural areas, including the Pinelands region, and pose a risk of harm to the New Jersey's air, drinking water supplies, fish and wildlife, and other natural resources. The proposed SRL pipeline is not needed for the public service, convenience, or welfare, and therefore the compressor station is equally unnecessary and should be rejected. Both Bordentown and Chesterfield have adopted resolutions opposing the proposed compressor station.

Urges Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reject application filed by Transco for placement of natural gas compressor station in Burlington County and opposes Southern Reliability Link pipeline project as proposed.