

May 6, 2016

Debra Howland, Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-7319

**RE: Docket No. DE 16-241
Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy Petition for Approval of
Gas Infrastructure Contract**

Dear Ms. Howland:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced Docket in which Eversource Energy is petitioning for Approval of Gas Infrastructure Contract with Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC and seeking to recover costs of purchased gas capacity through a tariff/tax on all of its electric distribution customers in New Hampshire.

First I would like to address the issue of "Confidential Treatment" as requested by Eversource. As our Nation moves towards openness and transparency in government, the request by Eversource is a step backwards in time and an obvious move to protect its own interests over that of the New Hampshire ratepayers. If there is nothing foul afoot then please show us that. I support the opposition to this request for Confidential Treatment as presented by the OCA on behalf of myself and all the electric ratepayers in New Hampshire.

Additionally, I would like to address the "need" or lack thereof for constructing additional gas infrastructure in New England at the risk of electric ratepayers. The Massachusetts Attorney General, Maura Healy, while reviewing the ill conceived NED project conducted a study on need and found:

"Furthermore, the Study shows that electric ratepayer-funded gas pipeline investments like the proposed NED Project are more costly to ratepayers than comparable investments in cleaner alternatives, including energy efficiency, demand response, and firm low-carbon imports over existing transmission lines [when paired with energy efficiency]. In this regard, the Study provides relevant data and analysis for FERC's use in analyzing the reasonable non-pipeline and non-gas alternatives to the NED Project, See AGO Scoping Comments at 15-16.

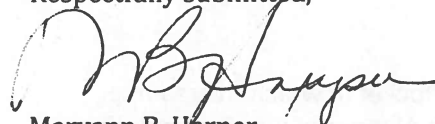
In fact, the Study finds that, unlike these alternatives, natural gas pipeline investments like the NED Project that seek to serve the power sector will increase regional GHG emissions relative to status quo market conditions." [MA AGO Filing of AG Energy Reliability Study for FERC Consideration in_TGP NED_CP16-2100.docx 01/14/16] emphasis added.

There is no statutory provision in New Hampshire for the contractual arrangement as petitioned by Eversource. Simply put, the cost of gas infrastructure (including stranded costs resulting from overbuilding) would be a risk assumed by the electric ratepayers and would therefore likely result in increased gas pipeline construction in New Hampshire.

Our needs can be met through cost effective energy efficiency and demand response as well as movement towards renewable sources of energy that would create permanent jobs in our State. The overbuilding of gas infrastructure, which if approved this petition would encourage, is not in the interest of the health and safety of New Hampshire citizens and would also put our natural environment at unnecessary risk. If approved, this petition will likely set up New Hampshire to be a transmission corridor for gas export. This petition is not in the interest of the State's electric ratepayers. This petition is solely in the interests of energy companies that want to construct gas pipeline infrastructure and pass on all of the costs and risks to unsuspecting electric ratepayers.

I urge you to deny this request.

Respectfully submitted,



Maryann B. Harper
154 Sunridge Road
Rindge, NH