

July 11, 2015

HPUC 13JUL15AM10:45

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

RE: DG 14-3 80 Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/aJ Liberty Utilities

Dear Secretary Howland,

I am writing as a New Hampshire property owner who is greatly concerned about the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline to be constructed through 17 towns in southern New Hampshire. My property is in Temple  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the proposed site of the gas compression station. The property is agricultural and is characterized by open fields and woodlands. It is a thriving habitat for diverse species of wildlife, and has been cultivated as farmland for over 150 years. The preservation of this land and its attributes are of great importance, not only to me and my family, but to the region as a whole. Temple and its neighbors are not communities of wealth or prestige. The value and resources of these communities lie in their natural, open spaces, spaces that attract tourists for recreational pursuits, spaces that support farming and agriculture, spaces that are characteristic of the rural way of life that is the essence of much of New Hampshire.

The proposed pipeline and compression station pose a very real threat to this area and that very way of life. The research is clear that the risks associated with pipeline projects are significant. In the last five years, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigated three major gas transmission pipeline accidents where deficiencies with the operators' Integrity Management programs were identified as a concern. These three accidents resulted in 8 fatalities, over 50 injuries, and 41 homes destroyed with many more damaged. In 2015 an NTSB safety report detailed 119 "incidents" in gas transmission pipelines. The report also noted a mounting frequency of these incidents in what it called areas of "high consequence." The NSTB found that "inadequate evaluation of interactive threats" leads pipeline operators to "underestimate the true magnitude of risks to a pipeline."<sup>1</sup> Since 2004, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has recorded 34 "significant" gas leaks involving Southern California Gas Company pipelines that resulted in four deaths, four injuries, and more than \$11 million in damage. Nationwide, there have been more than 1,700 significant gas leaks over that time, resulting in 135 deaths, 600 injuries, and about \$2 billion in damages. The national average of hazardous leaks per 1,000 miles of pipeline is about 35 per 1,000 miles.<sup>2</sup>

Even in the absence of accidents or leaks, there is inherent danger. There is a small but growing body of literature on emissions from shale gas extraction, processing and transport activities. In its early stages of inquiry, the focus was predominantly on drill pad activity, but there are now reports on natural gas compressor station emissions. Below are examples of chemicals that have been found at or near compressor stations during operations. These emissions reports are consistent whether from public databases or from a private sector firm or organization. <sup>3</sup>

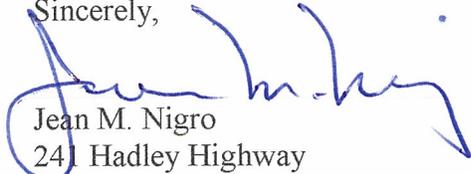
MTBE	2-methyl butane
CO	2 methyl pentane
iso-Butane	3 methyl pentane
methyl mercaptan	ethyl benzene
n-Butane	benzene
n-hexane	ethane
n-octane	propane
nitrogen dioxide	methanol
nitrous- acidstyrene	naphthelene

The potential exposure to these chemicals is high with routine operation of the compressor station. As I am sure you are aware, the Temple elementary school is less than a mile from the proposed site in New Ipswich, potentially placing children and teachers at risk. The Senator Tobey reservoir which provides drinking water to the town of Greenville is also in close proximity. Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) guidelines require pipeline planning to address natural resources affected by the project, including land, air, water, vegetation and wildlife, as well as the interests of the general public. However, given Kinder Morgan's plan to locate an 80,000 horse power compression station in such close proximity to these critical and vulnerable sites, one must conclude that the company's planning has clearly been flawed and has not adhered to INGAA guidelines or taken into account these resources.

Kinder Morgan would like us to believe that the pipeline will provide a needed energy resource. This argument is incorrect in more than one way. Firstly, there is no critical need for additional energy resources. Clean energy measures such as conservation and renewable energy sources can easily address the occasional peak capacity needs that occur currently. And more funding for renewable energy resources will address the long term needs of the region. If adequate resources were allocated now to alternative energy sources, the use of gas as a "bridge" would be unnecessary. Secondly, only a small amount of gas from the Kinder Morgan pipeline will be offloaded in New Hampshire: the largest amount is headed for export. None of this gas will be available for home use in rural areas. A study commissioned by the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) last spring found that exporting U.S. gas would actually raise the fuel's price here at home. More buyers overseas will drive up our domestic price by as much as 27 percent, according to the DOE. The DOE found that only one economic sector wins from gas exports: the gas industry!<sup>4</sup> So this project will actually reduce the available energy resource for our region.

Kinder Morgan's plan benefits Kinder Morgan and its shareholders. It is not necessary. It poses untold health and safety risks. Not only is it of no benefit to the people of New Hampshire, it has the potential to do real harm. I respectfully call on the NHPUC to support the real interests of residents and taxpayers. Consider the health, safety, and very way of life of the people of this rural area of New Hampshire. There is absolutely no benefit that this project could possibly offer that is worth the price New Hampshire would have to pay. The NED Kinder Morgan Project must not go forward.

Sincerely,



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<sup>1</sup>NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD: Safety Study  
Integrity Management of Gas Transmission Pipelines in High Consequence Areas  
NTSB SS-15/01

<sup>2</sup> The Desert Sun September 24, 2014

<sup>3</sup> SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT  
[www.environmentalhealthproject.org](http://www.environmentalhealthproject.org)  
Summary on Compressor Stations and Health Impacts  
February 24, 2015

<sup>4</sup> A Big Fracking Lie: President Obama isn't just not fixing climate change. He's making it worse.  
Bill McKibben & Mike Tidwell  
January 1, 2014