



June 18, 2015

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

RE: PF 14-22-000

Dear Ms. Bose,

Mason Conservation Commission respectfully requests that FERC hold a Scoping Session in Mason, NH for the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Project proposed by Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co., FERC Docket # PF 14-22-000. The Mason Conservation Commission believes that Mason merits a Scoping Session for the following reasons:

- * Both the main high-pressure pipeline and the Fitchburg lateral are proposed to cut across Mason in two directions, adding up to 8.9 miles of pipeline, more than any other NH town.
- * The NED project would have major impacts on Mason and its natural resources. Yet the NED Resource Reports omit from consideration many of these resources.
- * The protection of Mason's water supplies deserves detailed scoping. Mason residents depend entirely on individual wells drilled into bedrock or stratified drift aquifers. With a significant portion of pipeline routed across shallow-to-bedrock soils, the blasting involved in pipeline construction risks contaminating these aquifers and altering their flow.
- * The pipelines cross Mason's largest stratified drift aquifer. What are the foreseeable and potential effects on this aquifer of the withdrawal and discharge of hydrostatic testing water?
- * Mason's wetlands and streams have been seriously under-counted and mis-represented in NED Resource Reports and maps. Resource Report 2 on Water documents no wetlands for the lateral in Mason. This cannot be true, since it crosses the Mason Brook valley.
- * State and town conservation lands and conservation easements in Mason are threatened with taking for the pipelines, risking violation of the public trust. These lands include some of NH's Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat as documented in NH Wildlife Action Plan.
- * Mason citizens are very concerned about the impacts of NED on our rural town, on the state, and on the whole region. They have formed a pipeline committee which hosts weekly meetings where people from all towns are welcome to hear experts speak on the issues.
- * Mason's Elementary School has a large auditorium suitable for a Scoping Session. Our town would welcome FERC staff for this purpose. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Larochelle, Chairman, Mason Conservation Commission
Mann House, 16 Darling Hill Road, Mason, NH 03048

Cc: Governor Maggie Hassan
Attorney General Joseph A. Foster
Dijit Taylor, Director, NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)
Tracey Boisvert, Director, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program (LCIP)
Senator Kelly Ayotte
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Representative Annie Kuster
State Senator Kevin Avar
State Representative Jack Flanagan
State Representative Christopher Adams
Mason Board of Selectmen
Craig Fifield
William Doonan