

PF14-22

ASSOCIATED FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC FILE
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

April 30, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable James W. McConnell
New Hampshire House of Representatives
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative McConnell:

Thank you for your April 2, 2015, letter regarding Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C.'s (Tennessee Gas) planned Northeast Energy Direct Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Docket No. PF14-22-000). As your letter indicated, Tennessee Gas has not yet filed its formal application with the Commission, but has filed its initial draft environmental resource reports. Commission staff is currently reviewing the draft environmental resource reports and will be issuing comments to Tennessee Gas asking for any further information needed for the formal application for the project. After Tennessee Gas has concluded its open house meetings for the planned project, my staff will issue a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project, which will initiate the formal public comment period.

You express concern that Commission staff may schedule scoping meetings before Tennessee Gas files additional resource reports. Please understand that holding scoping meetings before resource reports are filed would benefit the public. In fact, Commission staff expects resource reports to take account of issues that are raised by the public at the scoping meetings. Accordingly, if staff did not hold the scoping meetings until after the resource reports were finalized, the final reports in the formal application would not deal with issues discussed in the scoping meetings.

Please be aware as well that the public will continue to have opportunities to comment on the proposed project after scoping is completed. Once a formal application is filed, my staff will begin preparing a draft EIS for the project. When the draft EIS is issued, staff will announce additional public meetings to solicit input on it. In addition to comments made at public meetings, the Commission will fully consider written comments made throughout the review process.

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Please be assured that, as in any Commission matter, we strive to make our review of energy proposals both accessible and transparent to the public. If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, I hope you will not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman C. Bay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a checkmark at the end.

**Norman C. Bay
Chairman**

Document Content(s)

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