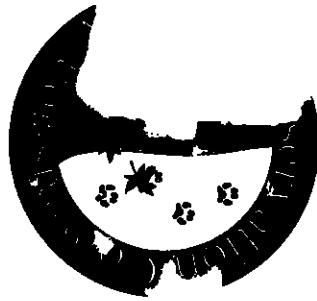


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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

December 27, 2014

**To: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E. Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20426**

Re: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC, Docket No. PF14-22

In Opposition to Proposed Northeast Energy Direct Project

Accompanying letters from Mason NH Conservation Commission Document that this Project is a threat to the integrity of New Hampshire Conservation Easements and Conservation Lands.

**From: Mason Conservation Commission
Robert B. Larochelle, Chairman**



December 24, 2014

Dijit Taylor
Executive Director
LCHIP
13 West Street, Suite 3
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Dijit,

Mason Conservation Commission would like to ask LCHIP for assistance in dealing with a serious threat to the integrity of the Fifield Tree Farm Conservation Easement. This threat arises from the recently announced NH route for Northeast Energy Direct Project's large high-pressure gas pipeline. Kinder Morgan and its subsidiary Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. propose to locate this project adjacent to the PSNH right-of-way crossing 17 southern NH towns. Construction of this pipeline would involve clearing a swathe up to 150 feet wide across the northern part of the Fifield Tree Farm, crossing Spaulding Brook. Fifty feet of this would never be allowed to grow back. Herbicides could be used here, *even in wetlands*, to prevent the growth of anything other than grasses and other shallow-rooted species.

Kinder Morgan plans further violation of the Fifield Tree Farm Conservation Easement by extending a smaller gas pipeline, the Fitchburg Lateral, southward across Spaulding Brook in the western part of the Tree Farm on Black Brook Road. Our 2014 easement monitoring includes photographs of both these proposed pipeline routes.

The Spaulding Brook corridor and nearly all of the Fifield Tree Farm lying north of this brook is mapped as Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire by the NH Wildlife Action Plan. Recognizing its significant natural quality, LCHIP invested in permanently protecting this outstanding habitat. And the Fifield family generously enabled this investment by granting the Fifield Tree Farm Conservation Easement at a very reduced price. Through this donation, the family sought to secure the natural values of their land in perpetuity. A conservation easement creates a public trust forever.

Mann House, 16 Darling Hill Road, Mason, NH 03048

No private company should be allowed to violate this public trust for a project of dubious need. Mason Conservation Commission has voted to oppose this pipeline project because it poses a threat to Mason's natural resources. The extensive blasting involved in construction would imperil water supplies – all Mason's residents depend on their own groundwater wells. The subsequent herbicide use would menace aquatic habitat – Craig Fifield remembers dead fish appearing in Spaulding Brook after PSNH applied herbicide to the powerline corridor in the 1970s. For the past two decades PSNH has used physical means to control vegetation. But the gas pipeline company includes herbicides in its vegetation control plan, citing the practice as the preferred method of control in wetlands.

Mason Conservation Commission urges you and LCHIP staff to take whatever steps you can to preserve the integrity of the Fifield Tree Farm Conservation Easement. We fear threats like this can undermine peoples' confidence in conservation easements, leading to a loss of faith in this tool among potential future contributors. We strongly encourage you to express LCHIP's concern to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and to all state officials and legislators who should be concerned.

Below is FERC's mailing address, with the project docket number. FERC's website can be difficult to navigate. At www.nhpipelineawareness.org there is helpful information on accessing the FERC comment process.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Larochelle
Chairman, Mason Conservation Commission

FERC mailing address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

888 First Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC

Proposed Northeast Energy Direct Project (Docket No. PF14-22)

Mann House, 16 Darling Hill Road, Mason, NH 03048

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Copies of this letter have been sent to the following:

Governor Maggie Hassan

Senator Kelly Ayotte

Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Representative Annie Kuster

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

State Senator Kevin Avar

State Representative Jack Flanagan

State Representative Christopher Adams

Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director, NH Fish and Game

Tom Burack, Commissioner, NH Dept. of Environmental Services (NHDES)

Eugene Forbes P.E., Director, NHDES Water Division

Tracey Boisvert, Director, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program

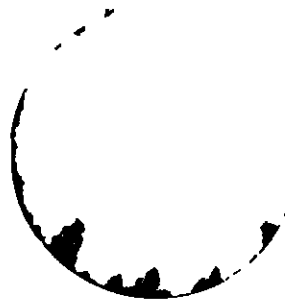
Meredith Hatfield, Director, NH Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP)

Karen Cramton, NHOEP Deputy Director and Administrator of Energy Programs

Craig Fifield

Mason Board of Selectmen

Mann House, 15 Darling Hill Road, Mason, NH 03048



December 24, 2014

**Steve Walker
LCIP Conservation Stewardship Program
NH Office of Energy and Planning
Governor Hugh J. Gallen State Office Park
Johnson Hall, 3rd Floor 107 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301**

Dear Steve,

Mason Conservation Commission would like to ask LCIP Conservation Stewardship Program for assistance in dealing with a serious threat to the integrity of Mason's Doonan Conservation Easement and the abutting Spaulding Brook Conservation Land. This threat arises from the recently announced NH route for Northeast Energy Direct Project's large high-pressure gas pipeline. Kinder Morgan and its subsidiary Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. propose to locate this project adjacent to the PSNH right-of-way crossing 17 southern NH towns. Construction of this pipeline would obliterate most of the forest along the Starch Mill Road frontage of the Spaulding Brook Conservation Land and the Doonan Conservation Easement. A fifty foot swathe would never be allowed to grow back. Herbicides could be used here, *even in wetlands*, to prevent the growth of anything other than grasses and other shallow-rooted species.

The Spaulding Brook corridor is mapped as Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire by the NH Wildlife Action Plan. Recognizing its significant natural quality, LCIP invested in permanently protecting this outstanding habitat. And the Doonan family generously enabled this investment by donating the Conservation Easement. Through this gift, the family sought to secure the natural values of their land along Spaulding Brook Pond in perpetuity. A conservation easement creates a public trust forever.

No private company should be allowed to violate this public trust for a project of dubious need. Mason Conservation Commission has voted to oppose this pipeline project because it poses a threat to Mason's natural resources. The extensive blasting involved in construction would imperil water supplies – all Mason's residents depend on their own groundwater wells. The subsequent herbicide use would menace aquatic habitat – a

Mann House, 16 Darling Hill Road, Mason, NH 03048

former Mason resident remembers dead fish appearing in Spaulding Brook after PSNH applied herbicide to the powerline corridor in the 1970s. For the past two decades PSNH has used physical means to control vegetation. But the gas pipeline company includes herbicides in its vegetation control plan, citing the practice as the preferred method of control in wetlands.

Mason Conservation Commission urges you and Conservation Stewardship staff to take whatever steps you can to preserve the integrity of LCIP's investment. We fear threats like this can undermine peoples' confidence in conservation easements, leading to a loss of faith in this tool among potential future contributors. State and local taxpayers who have long supported conserving land would lose trust in public land protection programs. We strongly encourage you to express your concern to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and to all state officials and legislators who should be concerned.

Below is FERC's mailing address, with the project docket number. FERC's website can be difficult to navigate. At www.nhpipelineawareness.org there is helpful information on accessing the FERC comment process.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Laroche

Chairman, Mason Conservation Commission

FERC mailing address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

888 First Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC

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Copies of this letter have been sent to the following:

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State Representative Jack Flanagan
State Representative Christopher Adams
Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director, NH Fish and Game
Tom Burack, Commissioner, NH Dept. of Environmental Services (NHDES)
Eugene Forbes P.E., Director, NHDES Water Division
Tracey Boisvert, Director, NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program
Meredith Hatfield, Director, NH Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP)
Karen Cramton, NHOEP Deputy Director and Administrator of Energy Programs
William Doonan
Mason Board of Selectmen

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