



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF ACUSHNET
122 MAIN STREET, ACUSHNET, MA 02743
LNG ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TEL.: (508) 998-0250
FAX: (508) 998-0203

RE: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC's, Access Northeast Project
FERC Docket # PF16-1-000

Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
Attention: Robert Shea, Presiding Officer

May 11, 2016

Dear Mr. Shea:

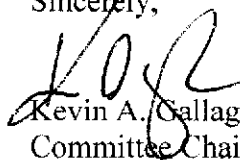
The Acushnet Citizens Advisory Committee voted at its' May 10, 2016 meeting to join the Commonwealth's Attorney General in requesting that the Federal Energy Regulatory commission extend by at least forty-five (45) days the public comment period on the Access Northeast project cited above.

Presently, the deadline for the receipt of public comments is May 31, 2016. Given that the comment period was triggered by the posting of the FERC Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on May 6, 2016, we believe that insufficient time is allowed for a comprehensive review of the project and the development of responses by the public and stakeholders.

I have attached copies of the correspondences from the Office of the Attorney General and our committee to FERC for your review.

We respectfully request that the Energy Facilities Siting board join us in seeking this extension.

Sincerely,


Kevin A. Gallagher
Committee Chair
Fire Chief, Town of Acushnet



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RE: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC's, Access Northeast Project
Docket # PF16-1-000

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

May 11, 2016

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Acushnet Citizens Advisory Committee on LNG respectfully requests your support of the Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey's written request, dated May 6, 2016, to extend the scoping comment deadline for the project cited above.

The local advisory committee was created by the Acushnet Board of Selectmen in March to review issues of local concern and interest relative to the Access Northeast project. As you are aware, this project would bring to our community a new natural gas pipeline and a significant LNG storage facility. Our goal is to assist the Selectmen by preparing a comprehensive report reflecting local concerns for their consideration when issuing to FERC their formal comments.

A forty-five day extension of the May 30, 2016 deadline would assist us as follows:

- It would provide the advisory committee additional time to gather information from subject matter experts who are proving to be beneficial to our stated goals and objectives.
- It would allow the Acushnet Board of Selectmen time to review our report, challenge our findings and develop a thoughtful statement on behalf of this community to federal regulators.

- It would provide the committee with the time necessary to review a yet to be received response from the proponents relative to our request that they conduct a “Quantitative Risk Assessment” relative to the siting of the proposed storage tanks.
- Most importantly, it would provide time for all stakeholders to review all components of the reports that comprise the draft environmental resource report so that comments to your agency are based on factual submissions.

It is our understanding that a forty-five (45) day extension was provided in 2015 by FERC in the Northeast Energy Direct proposal. Given the importance of this issue to the residents of the Town of Acushnet, and with the endorsement of the Acushnet Board of Selectmen, we respectfully request the same consideration.

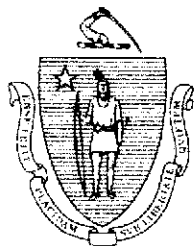
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Gallagher', is written over the printed name and title.

Kevin A. Gallagher
Committee Chair
Fire Chief, Town of Acushnet

Sent electronic filing



MAURA HEALEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

TEL: (617) 727-2200
www.mass.gov/ago

May 6, 2016

by electronic filing

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

Re: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC's, Access Northeast Project
Docket No. PF16-1-000

Request to Extend the Scoping Comment Deadline

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey (MA AGO) respectfully requests that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) extend by at least forty-five (45) days the public comment period set by FERC's April 29, 2016, Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the pre-filing process for FERC's review of Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC's (Algonquin) proposed Access Northeast Project (Project), Docket No. PF16-1-000.

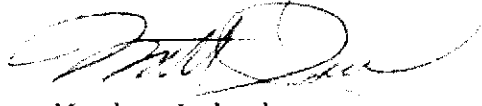
In its April 29, 2016, Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS, published in the Federal Register on May 6, 2016, FERC set a May 30, 2016, deadline for receipt of written scoping comments for the Project. Notwithstanding that May 30, 2016, is Memorial Day, a state and federal holiday,¹ the MA AGO respectfully requests that FERC extend the May 30, 2016 scoping comment deadline by at least forty-five (45) days.

¹ In the event that FERC does not grant this request for an extension, FERC should at a minimum make clear that scoping comments will be accepted and considered timely through Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Absent this clarification, many stakeholders' effective deadline for scoping comments will be Friday May 27, a mere 21 days following the publication of the Notice to Prepare an EIS in the Federal Register.

According to information posted on the docket in this matter, Algonquin will file with FERC draft environmental resource reports 11 and 13 sometime in May 2016, with the complete set of draft resource reports to be filed in a yet-to-be-established sequence in June so that the full set of reports are on file by the end of June 2016. These draft resource reports will provide important information concerning the Project's environmental impacts. All stakeholders deserve the benefit of this detailed environmental impact information as they prepare and file scoping comments with FERC, or prepare to make comments at a public scoping meeting. Extending the scoping comment deadline until after the full set of resource reports have been filed will allow the MA AGO and other stakeholders to provide FERC and Algonquin with more comprehensive and salient comments on the appropriate scope of environmental review for the Project.²

Thank you for consideration of the MA AGO's request to extend the scoping comment deadline.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Ireland', is written over a faint circular stamp or seal.

Matthew Ireland,
Assistant Attorney General,
Environmental Protection Division
Office of Attorney General Maura Healey

² The scoping comment period for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company LLC's Northeast Energy Direct (NED) proposal, a project with similar capacity and geographic extent, was initially set by FERC for August 31, 2015, 60 days after FERC's EIS NOI, but, to accommodate additional scoping meetings, that deadline was further extended to October 16, 2015, an additional 45 days.