

ASSOCIATED
PUBLIC FILEFEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

PF14-22

February 10, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for sending me the January 8, 2015, letter from the Merrimack Town Council, 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).

The Commission approved Tennessee Gas' request to enter into our pre-filing process for the planned project on October 2, 2014. The Commission's pre-filing process allows our staff to actively participate with landowners, interested parties, other federal and state agencies, elected officials, and the applicant in order to identify environmental or other issues, and discuss potential solutions and route modifications before an application is filed. By engaging the public early in the process we believe that we can conduct a more comprehensive and meaningful review of the project as part of our obligation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

I appreciate the concerns of the Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire, regarding an extension of the comment period. Let me assure you that this planned project is still early in our environmental review process and we have not issued the formal public comment period to date. After the completion of the Tennessee Gas-sponsored open house meetings for the planned project scheduled in January and February 2015, my staff will issue our Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project, which will initiate the formal public comment period. In order to conduct a thorough and comprehensive environmental review, my staff will also hold scoping meetings throughout the project area during the public comment period. During the process of preparing the EIS for the project, the public will have numerous opportunities to comment on the project and the adequacy of the EIS.

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Please be assured, as in any Commission matter, that 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, appearing to read 'C. LaFleur', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Cheryl A. LaFleur
Chairman**

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