



Town of Amherst, New Hampshire  
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December 4, 2015

Margaret Wood Hassan, Governor  
State of New Hampshire  
107 North Main Street, Room 208  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan,

As a continuation of our previous correspondence (June 8, 2015 and August 10, 2015) regarding the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) natural gas transmission pipeline project (FERC Docket No. PF14-22) proposed by Kinder Morgan (KM) that is slated to run through our town, we would like to call your attention to the most recent study of New England's energy requirements, commissioned by the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The study found that "the region is unlikely to face electric reliability issues in the next 15 years and additional energy needs can be met more cheaply and cleanly through energy efficiency and demand response." The press release from the Attorney General's office concerning this report can be found at: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2015-11-18-electric-reliability-study.html>. The study itself can be found at: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/docs/energy-utilities/reros-infographic.pdf>.

This report appears to be yet another nail in the coffin of the already questionable argument that the proposed NED Pipeline is necessary for serving the power needs of New England. The three key findings from the study are:

- "Under business-as-usual circumstances, the region can maintain electric reliability through 2030, even without additional new natural gas pipelines. Even under a "stressed system" scenario, there are cheaper, less carbon intensive ways to ensure electric reliability, like energy efficiency and demand response that are less risky for ratepayers."
- "The most cost effective reliability solution to meet future energy needs when the system is stressed is new investment in energy efficiency and demand response."
- "Even if pipeline infrastructure is overbuilt in an effort to reduce electric prices, it will not provide ratepayers the savings they would achieve with new investments in energy efficiency and demand response."

In other words, this proposed pipeline does not serve the real energy infrastructure needs of New England. In fact, this study reinforces the arguments we made against this proposed pipeline project in our previous letter to you. As you will recall:

1. The real power problem driving prices for New Hampshire and state power consumers is the need for better distribution through infrastructure improvement and deregulation;

2. An emphasis on improved generation capacity over improved distribution is a very costly distraction from our real capital investment requirements;
3. The enormous capital requirements of the NED pipeline will very possibly require a tax imposed after the project is approved through a tariff on some or all New England power consumers, thus raising not lowering electricity prices.

As the duly elected officials responsible for directing the municipal government of the Town of Amherst in line with the wishes of its residents, and as specifically empowered by Warrant Article of the voters to intervene on behalf of the Town and residents in all issues pertaining to the pipeline we remain strongly opposed to this project. It does not serve any apparent need in New Hampshire or in New England as a whole and in fact appears to be a major distraction from where we should be focusing our efforts as a state.

We also find it particularly galling that the Attorney General of Massachusetts, the state purported to be the main beneficiary of this project, has shown that this proposed pipeline will not serve the interests of the residents of Massachusetts. May we remind you that vocal opposition by Massachusetts residents—and by the elected government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—is what successfully pushed a large portion of this proposed pipeline out of their state and into ours?

Madam Governor, we appeal to you again to take our arguments to heart since this proposed pipeline will profoundly affect, and may endanger hundreds of families and many communities across southern New Hampshire. Forcing New Hampshire residents to accept this pipeline over the strong objections of the people in the towns affected, without any apparent benefit to our people, and over the logical fairness that the costs should accrue most to those who benefit most, is a disservice to our state. Please take an *active, effective, and public* position against this proposed pipeline.

Sincerely,

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Dwight Brew, Chairman

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John D'Angelo, Vice Chairman

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Tom Grella, Selectman

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Nate Jensen, Selectman

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Reed Panasiti, Selectman