October 1, 2018

RE: Planned adoption of new Energy Master Plan in June 2019

Dear Chairperson Grace Strom Power:

As a New Jersey resident engaged in learning about the proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project, I have become acutely aware of the proliferation of proposals to construct additional natural gas infrastructure in New Jersey as well as their threats to the safety, health, environment and economy of all in New Jersey.

I fully support all efforts in New Jersey to transition to 100% clean renewable energy.

Recognizing the documented issues with climate change impacts and health outcomes for people and businesses around natural gas infrastructure, concern has also been raised about the danger of such infrastructure in our most densely populated state. Reviewing information from PHMSA, it is apparent that there has been an increase in accidents in High Consequence Areas; the PHMSA staff has been reduced in number for our Eastern Regional Office; and 80% of reportable incidents are from corrosion and material failure, operator error, and equipment failure. The numbers of incidents in PHMSA's data do not reflect those pertaining to gathering or distribution pipelines or accidents that did not result in a death occurring within 30 days after the incident, serious injury resulting in hospitalization, or property damages of $50,000 in 1984 dollars (approximately $120,000 now).

For your review and consideration, attached is a comment that I submitted to FERC that notes concerns with natural gas pipeline facilities' infrastructure that is specific to the NESE Project. Accidents from natural gas infrastructure, like the explosions in over 70 homes in Massachusetts (September 2018); the explosion at the Delmont Compressor Station in Salem Township PA (April 29, 2016) that was due, in part, to increased temperature in the pipeline, the failure of tape coating on weld joints and at previously repaired areas, and a corrosion growth rate that was approximately five times higher than the rate implicit in ASME B31.8S; and a natural gas transmission pipeline that exploded in Beaver County PA on September 3, 2018, one week after it was put into service, are not risks that we need to take. Adding more natural gas infrastructure is committing future generations and the environment to ongoing risks and pollution, and this is not necessary when we have clean energy alternatives.

As was noted in the press release about stakeholder meetings that will shape the total conversion of New Jersey's energy production profile to 100 percent clean energy sources by 2050 in a new Energy Master Plan, I fully support the following quotes:

- "Being responsible stewards of the environment is not a campaign promise, it's a moral, philosophical, and economic obligation that we have to ensure a strong economy and quality of life for all New Jersey residents today and for generations to come," said New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy.
- "Climate change is real and we have to take seriously the short- and long-term effects of our policy decisions for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren. Additionally, creating a clean energy economy in New Jersey opens new markets and creates an enormous economic development opportunity in this state. The potential there cannot be understated," said President Fiordaliso.

I ask that the Energy Master Plan Committee seriously support the following:

1. Require that any new pipeline in New Jersey (inter- and intra-state) be constructed to New Jersey standards (Class 4).
2. Require a comprehensive study of the safety impacts of all proposed natural gas infrastructure in New Jersey.
3. Support keeping current Class Location Safety Requirements for existing pipelines and not making adjustments at the Federal level, and go on the record opposing PHMSA's consideration of industry recommended loosening of class location safety requirements for existing pipelines.

Sincerely,
Dr. Barbara Cuthbert
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Princeton, NJ 08540

Attachment: 10/1/18 Comment to FERC on Docket No. 17-101 (NESE) about corrosion, velocity/volume and safety