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Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street
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Dear SEC Committee Members,

New Hampshire has the opportunity to obtain a long term supply of American-sourced propane delivered safely and efficiently by rail, replacing expensive foreign-shipped propane. The Sea-3 project is ready to start construction, and it simply needs an exemption from another long and unnecessary study period that will only confirm what other exhaustive safety standards checks have already done: tell us that this project is safe and is good for New Hampshire. I ask you to vote yes so this project can get started.

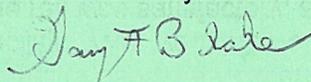
It is no accident that 77,000 households in New Hampshire rely on propane for heating their homes. It is cost-effective, clean-burning, and has been handled safely for years. Now Sea-3 wants to use a reliable and cheaper domestic supply shipped by rail to a dedicated unloading facility. Why wouldn't we want that? It's already been approved by the town, the safety study for the rail was satisfactory, and it is good for the people in our state who rely on propane for heating their homes. This is progress for our state, and we have no reason to hold it up any longer.

New Hampshire residents' pocketbooks should not be held hostage by a few noisy Portsmouth activists who couldn't even come up with a valid reason that this facility should not be operational. Their only argument was quickly disproved, and the Sea-3 expansion project has met every applicable safety and legal requirement. Now we are just waiting on the SEC. Any potential reason to further delay this facility is dwarfed by the benefit to New Hampshire residents, who deserve access to the cheap and abundant supplies of propane that will soon become available once the SEC grants Sea-3 their expansion exemption.

If Sea-3 is not granted an exemption from this long-term review, we actually open our state up to substantial risk. Instead of having Sea-3's highly-trained facility employees unloading propane using task-specific state-of-the-art hardware with built-in safety features, there will be truck drivers and other lightly trained personnel hooking up hoses at railroad stops without things like automatic cutoffs, water deluge technology, and fire suppression systems. Is this really what we want for New Hampshire? We can do better than that.

The expansion of Sea-3's propane handling terminal in Newington is vital to the energy security of New Hampshire. The project has passed all safety and legal tests, in addition to the state's own safety inspection of the rail lines. Newington's Planning and Zoning board has already approved it. So, for the benefit of all of New Hampshire, I strongly encourage you to grant the requested exemption and allow this facility to soon start saving New Hampshire residents money on winter heating fuel!

With thanks for your time and consideration,



Gary Blake