

From: Gary Nielsen [<mailto:nielsenrinaldo@comcast.net>]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 8:21 PM
To: PUC
Subject: NED Pipeline CAN'T Ignore Town Ordinances

Dear PUC,

How can it make any sense for a project of this magnitude to ignore town ordinances when townspeople can't even put up a chicken coup without consulting their select-board and planning departments! Please see this project for what it is intended: To export gas to customers willing to pay a LOT more than we here in the US. Global markets and corporate profits should NOT have the final say regarding how our public and private(!) land is used.

If Kinder-Morgan was really concerned with generation of electricity they would put their (and our) \$5.5 billion to much better use in the design and construction of a state of the art, 22nd century, gas-fired power plant atop the Marcellus shale and be done with it. If Hydro-Quebec can ship power from near the Hudson Bay all the way to NY City and beyond, then they could easily supply electrical energy to all of the northeastern US from Pennsylvania! Why are we so anxious to disrupt so many lives, destroy our natural heritage, and pollute the air and water of this beautiful state for power we don't need and a project that no one wants? Why are we not exploring any alternatives?

Kinder-Morgan describes natural gas as a bridge fuel. If that is the case, then why are we installing such massive infrastructure to a resource that is fleeting? How long will it be before the Marcellus shale gas is "pumped dry?" What will this pipeline transport then? Certainly this resource can be put to good use here in the US and help us transition to distributed power. We are all for infrastructure that has a sense of place. One in keeping with the landscape, that is largely non-polluting, like power lines. We have rooftop solar PV and, without the grid, we would not have sufficient power in the winter, nor would we have the luxury of selling power back. We heartily support the electric grid and happily pay for its maintenance. Who will this pipeline serve? Citizens have no access to it and will not benefit from it.

Think back to the PUC's roots and the rural electrification projects early in the last century. Where are the cheering crowds and welcoming homes for this project? You only have to reminisce upon the ice storm of 2008 to see the stark contrast. How will those who repair the pipeline or its components (compressor stations) be greeted by the very townspeople they so blatantly ignored?

Please cast your minds to the future. Is this project really needed at this time? Are there really no alternatives? Is this an essential, game-changing, modernization program or just the dying gasp of an industry that is unwilling to accept change and adapt? If this pipeline must go through then please, please listen and act upon the needs of those living in the affected communities AND their political leaders (including the governor and our congressional representatives). We matter, our lives and homes (and landscape) matter, and we shall NOT be IGNORED!

Sincerely,

Gary Nielsen
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