



NH Site Evaluation Committee
ATTN: Ms. Jane Murray
NH Department of Environmental Sciences
29 Hazen Road, Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Sea-3 I am writing you today to urge the Site Evaluation Committee to swiftly approve the Sea-3 Inc. exemption request. I am convinced that allowing Sea-3 to upgrade its railcar offloading capacity at their state of the art facility in Newington as soon as possible would be a benefit to all of New Hampshire. As a propane dealer servicing thousands of customers across Southern New Hampshire, I can attest to the necessity of having a dependable and consistent supply of domestically produced propane.

Since opening in 1975, the facility in Newington has had no explosions or fires related to propane delivery by rail to the facility. With the significant investment in safety equipment and highly trained staff at the facility, I believe this record of safety will continue. I believe this is one key reason why the Newington Planning Board unanimously approved the project.

Opponents of this proposal seem to believe that by impeding the Sea-3 facility enhancements, they will block propane delivery by rail. They are mistaken. The approximately 77,000 New Hampshire residents who require propane for winter heat also want the propane delivered in the safest, most efficient and cost-effective way. Today that means delivering this domestically produced propane by rail to the state of the art facility in Newington.

I know a few Portsmouth residents who purchased homes along the rail lines have raised concerns related to the safety of those rails. The rail line from Portsmouth to Rockingham Junction has recorded no releases of any hazardous materials in the past ten years. Those same tracks have recently undergone a \$1 million upgrade.

With or without the upgrade to the Sea-3 facility, propane delivery by rail to New Hampshire will continue to increase for years to come. Without the upgrade, however, the propane will simply be taken off the trains and pumped into trucks at temporary rail sidings. While such transloading is common and appropriate, it is nowhere near as efficient, safe, or secure as offloading it at a permanent storage facility like Sea-3.

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and homeowners rely on propane for heat in our harsh winters here in New Hampshire. These propane consumers will only benefit from the upgrades to the Sea-3 facility. Since the application by Sea-3 meets all of the SEC's requirements for receiving an exemption, there should be nothing standing in the way of your Committee's approval of the Sea-3 exemption request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Trefethen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Trefethen
General Manager