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

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 all year long. This is progress for both our state and the country, and we have no reason to hold it up any longer.

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.

If the SEC waits to grant Sea-3's exemption to upgrade their Newington terminal, New Hampshire citizens are the ones who will continue paying the price in higher propane costs and potential supply disruptions. The project will take time, and we want it to come on line as soon as possible. The sooner it is approved, the sooner we will have access to cheaper, abundant propane sourced right here in the U.S. The project has met all guidelines, has been approved by Newington's Planning and Zoning board, and the rail lines have been professionally evaluated for their ability to carry New Hampshire's supply line safely. This project is ready to move forward, and the only thing it needs is for the SEC to grant an exemption from a process that is not only unnecessary, but unnecessarily long. This project deserves a yes vote on the exemption because the people of New Hampshire deserve to have the cheapest, safest, and most stable supply of winter heating fuel available to them.

With thanks for your time and consideration,

  
Linda Shepard