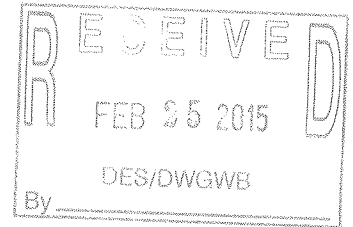


**Jane B. Sutherland**  
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February 23, 2015

Mr. Martin Honigberg, Chairman  
Site Evaluation Committee  
c/o NH Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

Re: Docket 2015 - 01 Sea-3 Request for exemption from a full Site Evaluation committee Report

Dear Mr. Honigberg:

This letter is to request that your committee refuse the Sea-3 application to be exempted from a full site evaluation to determine the advisability of the re-configuration at their facility in Newington. Such a full and impartial study of all of the safety, economic, and environmental impacts of the expansion they have requested was urged by citizens of several communities including the City of Portsmouth for many months in the process before the Newington Town Planning Board. That board refused to have such a study conducted.

The public interest in this project is considerable, partly because the way the propane would be delivered to the Newington facility is by train traveling over tracks in marginal condition through some heavily populated residential areas as well as the city of Portsmouth. Without this study, it is possible that the surrounding towns would not be adequately prepared to handle an emergency such as a derailment of one of the tank cars, or an accident at the Sea3 facility itself.

There have been many such accidents nationwide, and although Sea3 has a good safety record, they have never handled such a large quantity of LPG. One serious accident occurred at a similar facility in Lincoln, CA in August, 2011, in which 4800 homes were evacuated (Sacramento Bee, 8/29/11). Many accidents occur at the facilities themselves, not only in the rail transport.

The economic impact of supporting the limited response services available in Newington in case of a catastrophic event will fall on the surrounding towns, and will cost the taxpayers in those towns substantial expenses, such as the cost of such an evacuation as mentioned above. There is no direct benefit to those towns, only to the town of Newington itself.

In the original application to the town of Newington for this expansion in October, 2013, Mr. Paul Bogan, VP of Operations for Sea3, specifically stated that the intent was to re-configure the terminal from importing foreign LPG and distributing regionally, to bringing in domestic LPG and exporting it. Because of the large increase in the volume of this hazardous material involved, the outcry became such that it could not be ignored. Sea3 then changed its public relations explanation of the proposal (Portsmouth Herald, Dec. 20, 2013) to indicate that it would be distributed regionally. It is safe to say that there is little confidence in this statement, as demonstrated by the 700 signatures gathered in less than a week on a petition to urge the City of Portsmouth to appeal the decision for approval by the Newington Town Planning Board.

Please include me in the hearing on Docket #2015-01, so that I will have the opportunity to speak before the committee.

I strongly urge you to deny the request of Sea3 for an exemption from a full application and review of this project. Public safety depends on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

  
Jane Sutherland

Cc: Ms Jane Murray  
Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302-0095