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NEW HAMPSHIRE AFL-CIO

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Public Hearing Testimony for the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Newington Town Hall Thursday, May 7. 2015

New Hampshire AFL-CIO supports Sea-3's Request for Exemption from the Approval and Certificate Provisions of RSA Chapter 162-H.

New Hampshire AFL-CIO is a state labor Federation representing 23,000 active and retired workers throughout the Granite State. In our capacity as the leading advocate for working people in New Hampshire, we urge the Site Evaluation Committee to take into account the level of experience, training and exemplary safety record of Sea-3's fuel-handling workforce at the Newington facility, and to consider the potential to create additional secure jobs with good pay and benefits if the proposed expansion is allowed to move forward without delay.

Unfortunately, New Hampshire's skilled workers are facing economic and job market conditions that don't bode well for families who are working hard to stay in the middle class and who want to retire with dignity. Secure jobs with decent benefits and pay are becoming fewer and farther between, and are being replaced by lower-wage jobs with no benefits that provide little or no employment security and don't offer workers a chance to move up by working hard and improving their skills through on-the-job experience and training. You might even say that good jobs for skilled trade workers are an endangered species in New Hampshire; we need to expand and improve the environments where good jobs can thrive and grow. For this reason, New Hampshire AFL-CIO is standing with IBEW 1837 workers at Sea-3's Newington propane facility in calling for the proposed expansion to move forward without requiring a redundant review and approval process.

We are very sensitive to the safety concerns raised by Portsmouth City councilors and residents of the community. At the same time, we ask the Site Evaluation Committee to trust workers. Trust the experienced, dedicated professionals who have used their safety awareness and training to ensure that Sea-3 has never had a single reportable safety incident since the facility opened in 1975. Since 1975, there has never been a fire or gas release during propane transport on the rail line



between Portsmouth and Newington. Trust the workers who are responsible for earning Sea-3's reputation for having an outstanding safety record, and who are committed to keeping the Newington operation and surrounding communities safe and sound.

Please approve the proposed improvement to Sea-3 without further delay.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Mackenzie, Fresident

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