

Councilor Margaret Laforest, Quincy, MA.

As the Ward One City Councilor, I represent the Quincy neighborhoods across the water from the proposed compressor station. I write on behalf of these residents to express opposition to the Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, Request for Approval of Pre-Filing Review for its proposed Atlantic Bridge Project on the following basis:

- Location - The proposed area is already overburdened to the point of saturation with heavily industrialized business'. Currently there is a gasoline depot, chemical plant, two power plants, a regional sewage pump station, a pellet plant & hazardous waste transfer facility. Needless to say, we have our fair share of these operations currently and to even consider constructing a gas compressor station is beyond conceivable. While zoned an Industrial area, the location, is in close proximity to thousands of homes, while most compressors are constructed in rural areas with minimal surrounding residential properties. It is also at the base of the Fore River Bridge, currently under construction and a major thoroughfare for 33,000 vehicles per day.

- Environment/Coastal Concerns - Daily air and noise pollution. Emergency shutdowns and blow offs at compressor stations have been described as sounding like a "jet engine" or "freight train". The proposed use would be a detriment to the nearby neighborhoods and render the currently serene, municipal park useless. The US Fish and Game is a commenting authority to FERC. In addition to air pollution, what are the facilities doing to our coastal resources; water quality, fish and shellfish. Quincy Bay used to have a strong coastal economy that was decimated by pollution and we hope to revive this industry, yet polluting facilities continue to be proposed for this area.

- Environmental Justice - the impact area is cited by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs as an Environmental Justice neighborhood. Studies have determined that lower-income and minority communities suffer from a disproportionately high share of environmental burdens and at the same time lack environmental assets in their neighborhoods. To help ensure the protection of low-income residents and communities of color from environmental pollution as well as promote public participation by EJ populations in planning and development decision-making. Despite Germantown being an EJ community and our request that meetings be held in Quincy as transportation to Weymouth's Abigail Adams Middle School is inconvenient, this criteria has yet to be addressed.

- Public Safety - What training will our first responders have for a facility emergency and what about an evacuation plan? The facility is also in Hurricane Inundation Zone. This means the site may become inaccessible during and/or after a Category 2 hurricane and completely inundated after a Category 4 hurricane.

I have attended the information sessions and public hearings, had a coordinated site visit with Quincy City Councilor Brad Croall and Weymouth Town Councilor Becky Haugh as collectively we represent the impact area. I request the application for a compressor station along the Fore River be denied. Thank you for your consideration.

Document Content(s)

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