



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

June 9, 2015

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First St. NE; Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

**RE: Docket Number PF15-12-000**

Dear Secretary Bose,

We write to you regarding Project Docket Number PF15-12-000, specifically the proposed compressor station in North Weymouth, Massachusetts. After careful review and research, it is clear that the proposal to construct a natural gas compressor station in North Weymouth should not move forward. While we understand there is a need to increase the region's energy supply; Weymouth is not a proper site for a station.

The proposed location is not only in an environmentally sensitive area along the Fore River, it is also located in a densely populated area consisting of thousands of commercial and residential properties. Route 3A itself serves as the main travel route to Boston from the South Shore. The Fore River Bridge directly abutting the site accommodates approximately 32,000 vehicles trips daily. Construction is also underway for a new \$275 Million Fore River Bridge. This bridge serves as an economic engine for the entire region. Thousands of residents daily access the businesses, churches, schools, libraries and senior centers located in the area. The proposed location raises many questions relevant to the potential harm to residents, the environment, economy, and jeopardizes the significant state and federal investments being made to the area.

The proposed Weymouth compressor station would also be an anomaly compared to similar stations. As an example, the Oxford, CT compressor station is situated on 77 acres of land and with a community population of 12,680 people. The projected Weymouth compressor station is in stark contrast as it would sit on just 10 acres of land located within Weymouth's population of 54,000 people and Quincy's population of 94,000 people.

The proposed site already hosts a number of heavy commercial industries including fuel storage tanks, a power plant, a sewer pumping station, and other industrial uses. Also, adjacent to the area are the Quincy neighborhoods of Quincy Point and Germantown which are both designated as "Environmental Justice Neighborhoods" by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Locating this compressor station in this neighborhood

would run in direct opposition to Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" issued in 1994. This order directs federal agencies to address environmental injustices in their operations and in communities across the country.

Research is clear that compressor stations bring with them significant "quality of life" issues as well as risks. The dense geographic location of this proposed station ensures that any issues experienced would directly and immediately affect a large number of people. A specific example would be that if an emergency venting or "blow down" were to occur, the noise is very loud and is described as sounding like a jet engine. With this station operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, families and residents may be woken up by these noises at all hours of the night. Furthermore, as we have seen with other compressor stations, there is the real possibility of an emergency incident occurring at this station. In the event of an emergency thousands of area residents would be forced to evacuate. However the major evacuation route, the Fore River Bridge and Route 3A directly abutting the site, would be forced to shut down endangering the lives and safety of area residents.

These grave issues and overwhelming community opposition from the region should serve as a clear message that the proposed site in North Weymouth is not an appropriate location for a natural gas compressor station. We stand with the residents of Weymouth and Quincy and respectfully ask that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission does not allow this proposal to move forward.

Sincerely,



Representative James M. Murphy  
Fourth Norfolk District



Representative Ronald Mariano  
Third Norfolk District

Document Content(s)

FERC Letter Submission.PDF.....1-2