

Robert Hedlund, Weymouth, MA.
June 9, 2015

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

RE: Atlantic Bridge Project FERC Docket #PF15-12-000

Dear Secretary Bose,

I am writing to you regarding Atlantic Bridge Project FERC Docket #PF15-12-000, commonly known as Spectra's proposed natural gas compressor station in North Weymouth, Massachusetts. After attending multiple meetings regarding this proposal, doing independent research, and listening to my constituents, it is abundantly clear that North Weymouth is not the proper site to construct a natural gas compress station.

There are a multitude of reasons why North Weymouth should not have to burden, yet again, a commercial industrial project that provides absolutely no benefit to the community and carries with it heavy risk.

The primary reason is that the North Weymouth Fore River Basin area is heavily saturated with industrial activity adjacent to densely populated neighborhoods. There is currently a major gasoline/oil depot, a chemical/fatty acid plant, two power plants with transmission lines, a regional sewage pump station, a sewage pelletizing plant, a hazardous waste transfer and treatment facility, and smaller oil storage facilities/tanks in the same region that the gas compressor station is proposed.

There are 964 households within a half mile radius of the proposed gas compressor station. This is much higher than existing compressor stations such as Oxford, Connecticut. There is not a sufficient amount of data to determine the impact noise, smell, and air quality will have on such a populated area as North Weymouth. The health and safety risks and quality of life issues impact too large of a population base.

Additionally, there are significant economic impacts. 33,000 vehicles per day travel on Route 3A, which runs just approximately 30 yards from the proposed site. It is a major route that connects Weymouth and Quincy and leads directly to Boston. If there was an evacuation the road would have to be shut down. Factoring in the Commonwealth's nearly \$300M investment into rebuilding the Fore River Bridge, this project poses serious economic risk for residents and businesses that rely on the road to conduct their day to day business.

The surrounding area has already been recognized as Environmental Justice Neighborhoods for having a high minority and/or low-income population. The Environmental Protection Agency coined the term "Overburdened

Community" to describe areas such as these that could experience disproportionate environmental harms due to overexposure.

The residents of Weymouth and Quincy have put together a fact based argument that is undisputable. The area is already overburdened and saturated with heavy industrial commercial activities, there are far too many people living very close to the facility without the true risks known, an evacuation would be an economic and environmental disaster, and the region that this station is proposed for has been impacted far too greatly to date by similar activities.

I understand that attempting to alter the direction of Federal Energy regulated projects is difficult, but the case has been made against using this site for the compressor station and it has been made well. There are other locations that less dense, have been less burdened, and make more sense in the big picture.

I am discouraged to read that since hundreds of residents came out to speak out against Spectra's proposed gas compressor station that the projected horsepower requirement has been changed just last week from 7,770 to 10,900. I join Weymouth Town Councilor Rebecca Haugh in her request that FERC to hold another scoping meeting and consider this a major change to the proposal.

Route 3A in North Weymouth is the gateway to our community and the South Shore. For years it has been taken advantage of by high risk and low reward projects. The Town and residents have been welcoming to almost all of the commercial and industrial activity that I have outlined above. However, this is a project that goes too far, with far too many impacts. The residents are engaged and are making compelling case that enough is enough and not this time. It's not an argument of not in our back yard, it's an argument of here is why this doesn't make sense in our back yard.

I respectfully request you find an alternative site for the natural gas compressor station.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Hedlund, Senator
Plymouth/Norfolk District

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