



RESOLUTION - OPPOSING THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF A COMPRESSOR STATION FOR THE CONNECTION TO THE TRANSCO PIPELINE BY WILLIAMS ON THE PROPOSED ROUTE 27 LOCATION OWNED BY TRAP ROCK

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2016 the Franklin Township Council held a special meeting to learn about the Williams Pipeline Company's proposal for a 32,000 HP compressor station to accelerate flow through its existing pipeline, constructed in the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, Williams representatives described the proposed compressor station as comprising six buildings on a six acre site, with 15 acres of forest being cleared; and

WHEREAS, the project would require approval from the Federal Energy Regulation Commission, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Clean Water Act section 404), and US Fish & Wildlife Division, but no local land use permits; and

WHEREAS, the compressor would be subject to regular 'blowdowns' releasing methane and methyl mercaptan into the surrounding atmosphere, as well as constant high temperature exhaust containing carbon monoxide and formaldehyde (oxides of nitrogen were stated to be controlled by injecting urea, but products were not specified); and

WHEREAS, the compressor station would be manned by two employees, during business hours only, otherwise depending on automated monitoring; and

WHEREAS, the meeting was attended by over 250 concerned citizens; and

WHEREAS, forty-eight persons spoke, questioning aspects of the project and expressing opposition; and

WHEREAS, Williams compressor stations have had a number of fires and explosions in recent years (Susquehanna Co. PA [Lathrop compressor], March 29, 2012 and July 10, 2014; Bradford Co., PA, March 14, 2012; Tyler Co., WV, April 14, 2013, Brooklyn, PA, May 14, 2013, Branchburg, NJ, May 30, 2013; Windsor, NY, January 2014), leading residents to expect such an event at the proposed compressor station, from which fire could spread through the forest to residences along and across Route 27; and

WHEREAS, fire fighting in this area is the responsibility of volunteer fire companies, and water pressure in the nearest water line is too weak to support firefighting; and

WHEREAS, the compressor station would be near active mining in the Trap Rock Quarry, which carries out explosive blasting to break loose rock, and Williams was not able to present evidence that the compressors would be stable to shocks created by the blasting; and

Franklin Township

In Somerset County



WHEREAS, the financial stability of Williams was questioned, leading to suggestions that the company might not be able to sustain maintenance and safety of the compressor station, having already cut staff; and

WHEREAS, one neighbor described poor maintenance of a bridge over Carter's Brook necessary for inspection of pipeline integrity; and

WHEREAS, a number of residents expressed concern about Williams' safety record; and

WHEREAS, other residents expressed concern about possible health effects of released gases, citing health problems near the Minisink, NY compressor; and

WHEREAS, one resident, who raises cattle in close proximity to one of the projected sites for the compressor, stated that cattle next to compressor stations have fertility problems; and

WHEREAS, other residents expressed concerns about possible contamination of well water in the area, much of which is not served by public water; and

WHEREAS, the compressor would not in any way serve Franklin Township or New Jersey residents, the demand for more gas being described by Williams as being in Brooklyn and Queens, NY, where residents are reportedly switching from oil heat to gas; and

WHEREAS, natural gas as fuel is preferable in terms of greenhouse gas emission only if methane leaks, from well to final user, are less than 2%, but have been stated to be as high as 6% (methane having 84 times the effect of an equal concentration of carbon dioxide over a 20 years period), and

WHEREAS, limitation of global temperature increase due to the greenhouse effect depends on replacement of CO₂-emitting energy sources by other sources as quickly as possible;

WHEREAS, a petition against the compressor station, signed by more than 300 residents, was submitted to the Township Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 13TH day of September, 2016 by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Franklin, county of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that:

Franklin Township



In Somerset County

1. The Mayor and Council of the Township of Franklin oppose the construction and installation of a compressor station on all proposed locations in and around Franklin Township as it would have severe detrimental impacts on the residential communities in Franklin Township.
2. The Mayor and Council urge Williams Company to eliminate any further consideration for a compressor station at the Trap Rock locations and/or locations in South Brunswick and to find an alternate location for the construction and installation of a compressor station.
3. The Mayor and Council urge FERC to deny any application for these locations and urge its representatives of the United State Congress, United States Senate and New Jersey Legislature to oppose this compressor station application.
4. A copy of this resolution be forwarded to US Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, NJ Senators Christopher Bateman and Bob Smith, Assemblymen Jack Ciattarelli, Andrew Zwicker, Joseph Egan and Joseph Danielsen.

CERTIFICATION

I, Ann Marie McCarthy, Clerk of the Township of Franklin, in the County of Somerset, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Council at a Work Session/Regular Meeting held on the 9/13/2016.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Township this 9/14/2016.

Ann Marie McCarthy
Township Clerk

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