

United States Senate

September 29, 2017

The Honorable Neil Chatterjee
Acting Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Acting Chairman Chatterjee:

I write in regard to Williams Transco's (Transco) Northeast Supply Enhancement project (Docket No. CP17-101). Specifically, I write regarding the proposed construction of a new gas-fired compressor station in Franklin Township, and the proposed 26-inch pipeline running 23 miles through the Raritan Bay. Through this letter, I echo serious concerns that have been raised regarding the project's impact on the environment and surrounding communities.

As you know, my constituents have relayed specific concerns regarding the proposed location of Compressor Station 206 in Franklin Township, and its proximity to the Trap Rock Quarry, a site with active blasting and mining activity. As proposed, the project would construct a 32,000 horsepower gas powered compressor station with two 50-foot smokestacks on an almost 30 acre wooded site.

Community residents have expressed significant public health concerns that may result from the emissions and exhaust from the compressor station, including safety and emergency response, as well as the compressor station's overall impact on the environment. There are at least five houses of worship within two miles of the site, many of which have submitted comments expressing concern regarding the potential negative impact on the health and wellbeing of congregants and the larger community.

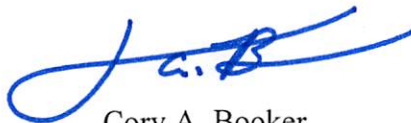
Environmental concerns regarding the project include the compressor station's potential emissions. Municipalities have taken issue with the lack of comprehensive information on chemical constituents of emission outputs and lack of specific details on the intensity, frequency, and duration of those emissions. Without sufficient information pertaining to the scope of the compressor station's emissions, the full environmental and health impacts cannot be fully understood. There are also serious questions regarding the impact a compressor station would have on water quality in the state's second largest aquifer and on valuable wetlands. In addition, the site is located near habitat for two vulnerable bird populations, including American Kestrel and Bald Eagle.

Another major component of the Northeast Supply Enhancement project is the Raritan Bay Loop, which consists of a 23 mile subsea pipeline to transport gas from New Jersey to New York

through the Raritan Bay. I am very concerned about the project's impact to the marine ecosystem, including the benthic habitat of the Bay that may be significantly disrupted during the construction of the pipeline. Estimates show as much as 14,000 acres of the Bay may be impacted, with potential disruption to fishing, boating, and additional recreation, thereby disturbing the region's recreational and commercial fishing industries and coastal tourism. Additionally, a project of this scope could have serious adverse impact on the Bay's fisheries and vulnerable populations of horseshoe crabs, sea turtles, and marine mammals, including harbor seals and humpback whale populations, which have been known to occupy the Raritan Bay in recent years.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is required to weigh the public need of a project against the environmental and community impacts. As discussed, significant concerns have been raised by my constituents regarding data gaps, lack of information, and comprehensive evaluation of environmental impacts. As FERC reviews the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, I request that you thoroughly consider the information provided by the applicant and the comments submitted by residents, organizations, and municipalities with careful attention to the health and safety of my constituents. I appreciate your diligence in reviewing these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. A. B.', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator