

RESOLUTION #18-5-112 - OPPOSING THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A COMPRESSOR STATION TO CONNECT TO WILLIAMS-TRANSCO'S PIPELINE IN FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, SOMERSET COUNTY, NJ

WHEREAS, Residents of Montgomery Township live in close proximity to the proposed Williams-Transco Compressor Station 206 adjacent to the Trap Rock Quarry in Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Williams-Transco plans to install a greenfield natural gas fired 32,000hp Compressor Station 206 at said site in Franklin Township; and

WHEREAS, The Trap Rock Quarry, adjacent to proposed Compressor Station 206, has been identified as a future reservoir site; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on March 23, 2018 for proposed Compressor Station 206; and

WHEREAS, FERC acknowledges receiving comments requesting FERC to perform a Health Impact Assessment for proposed Compressor Station 206 in the Executive Summary (pages ES-5 to 7), Environmental Analysis (page 4-292) and in the Conclusions and Recommendations (page 5-20) of the DEIS; and

WHEREAS, The FERC online database does not reflect FERC as having performed a single Health Impact Assessment in the past twelve (12) years; and

WHEREAS, Estimated emissions from proposed Compressor Station 206 have not been validated by FERC; and

WHEREAS, FERC has not indicated that it reviewed recent developments and studies correlating natural gas fired compressor emissions with direct health hazards and, further, has conducted no current health impact assessments on such emissions; and

WHEREAS, The ambient air sampling that was completed for the Williams-Transco Northeast Enhancement Supply Project used stations that are not proximate to the proposed site for Compressor Station 206 in Elizabeth, North Brunswick, and East Brunswick New Jersey and in Philadelphia PA, and each only measured specific components; and

WHEREAS, There was no local assessment of air quality emissions that included the airborne pollutants from the mining operations of Trap Rock Quarry in combination with the anticipated emissions from proposed Compressor Station 206; and

WHEREAS, The DEIS does not detail the environmental or health impact of proposed Compressor Station 206's emissions; and

WHEREAS, FERC is soliciting input from the public and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery urges FERC to require a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment to identify and analyze immediate and long-term health impacts and contamination potential from proposed Compressor Station 206's emissions; and

WHEREAS, The DEIS does not provide clear information to the public regarding exceedance of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP) above the State of New Jersey's published levels during blowdown events at proposed Compressor Station 206, nor a health assessment regarding the impact of the HAP upon citizens of the affected local communities; and

WHEREAS, The DEIS fails to provide for appropriate offset mitigation strategy for local emission of NOx, and instead appears to allow Williams -Transco to provide such offset in the location of the New York New Jersey port, which is remote from affected local communities; and

WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey was erroneously excluded as a "Cooperating Agency" during the preparation of the DEIS, a cooperating agency being defined in the DEIS as "another agency participating in the NEPA process that has jurisdiction by law over all or part of a project and/or one that has special expertise with respect to environmental issues associated with a project. Cooperating agencies are intended to have a substantial role in the environmental analysis according to their particular jurisdiction or expertise." (p.1-3); and

WHEREAS, The DEIS fails to include a complete analysis of compliance with the following federal programs: Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and completion of the General Conformity process, and the failure to include a discussion of the final findings does not allow the public to review and comment on these aspects of the analysis in the DEIS; and

WHEREAS, The DEIS fails to provide meaningful public participation in recognition of the fact that of the nearly 2,300 written submissions filed, approximately 98 percent were regarding Compressor Station 206; and

WHEREAS, The DEIS further fails to meaningfully address commenters' contentions that the radius to identify affected landowners was insufficient, the scoping sessions were limited, and the time allowed for filing comments was too brief and, instead, merely states "In response to these concerns, we note that our environmental mailing list complies with 18 CFR 157.6" (p. 1-8); and

WHEREAS, The DEIS acknowledges, "Construction and operation emissions from the NESE Project would increase the atmospheric concentration of GHGs, in combination with past and future emissions from all other sources, and contribute incrementally to future climate change impacts..." (p.4-366).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED On this 3rd day of May 2018, by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. An Environmental Impact Statement that does not include analysis of health or environmental impacts of chemical emissions from proposed Compressor Station 206 cannot be recognized as a legitimate environmental impact statement.
2. The Montgomery Township Committee opposes the construction and operation of proposed Compressor Station 206 as there has not been an adequate assessment of the potential detrimental health impacts from construction and operations of the proposed Compressor Station 206 on the residents, business and houses of worship situated near the site.
3. The Montgomery Township Committee strenuously urges FERC to conduct a thorough and comprehensive Health Impact Assessment of the proposed Williams-Transco Compressor Station 206 emissions comprehensively addressing health and environmental impact for the immediate areas, as well as long-term contamination potential for the reservoir site on the Trap Rock Quarry.
4. The Montgomery Township Committee requests FERC to require continuous air sampling at the site of the proposed Compressor Station 206 before and during construction, as well as ongoing for the lifetime of the compressor station's operation and publicly available real time updates of air sampling on the internet.
5. The Montgomery Township Committee urges its representatives of the United States Congress, United States Senate and New Jersey Legislature to oppose the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project that includes the proposed Compressor Station 206.
6. The Township Clerk is directed to provide a true copy of this resolution to US Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, Congressman Leonard Lance, NJ Senators Christopher Bateman and Bob Smith, and NJ Assemblymen Joseph Danielson, Joseph Egan, Andrew Zwicker and Roy Frieman.

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE ABOVE TO BE A
TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
MONTGOMERY AT A MEETING HELD

May 3, 2018


Deputy Township Clerk