

**Urge Governor Murphy and NJDEP  
TO DENY WATER PERMIT APPLICATIONS  
for the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE)**

**Tell NJ State Legislators to support a denial of the permits**

Call & send messages during the month of April 2019.

NJDEP has to make their decision on the water permit applications by June 5, 2019.

- ➔ Call Governor Murphy at (609) 292-6000.
- ➔ Call Commissioner McCabe at (609) 292-2885.
- ➔ Look for online petitions to sign. You can personalize the online letters. One can be found at:  
<https://secure.foodandwaterwatch.org/act/deny-nese-permits>
- ➔ Sign a letter to Governor Murphy and the NJDEP Commissioner. One can be found on the website, [www.scrap-NESE.org](http://www.scrap-NESE.org). Share it with your family, friends and neighbors to ask them to do the same.
- ➔ Call State Legislators (see attached listing).

- ✓ Let them know that you are counting on the NJDEP to scrutinize the applications and hold Williams-Transco to the high environmental requirements of NJ with the expectation that the water permits will be denied.
- ✓ Tell them why you care. Express your concerns that are relevant to the water permit applications.
- ✓ You can also express your disappointment that the air pollution permit was already given for the NESE Project & let them know of your concerns about the health impacts of the air pollutants from Compressor Station 206.
- ✓ The goal is to have them be partners in protecting our air, water, environment and wildlife.

**THE BALL IS IN GOVERNOR MURPHY'S COURT!**

- ◆ NJDEP can only stop the NESE Project by denying the water permit applications.
- ◆ Thus, comments should make points about the risks and dangers to water quality and endangered or threatened species.

## **We've been at this for a long time, and now is a critical time to have your voices heard where they can make a difference.**

Since FERC will likely issue the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in April 2019, even though they ignored many comments about our concerns -

### **IT'S NOW UP TO GOVERNOR MURPHY AND NJDEP TO DENY OR APPROVE WATER PERMIT APPLICATIONS.**

The proposed Compressor Station 206 and pipeline under Raritan Bay will not be built if Williams/Transco does not get all permits needed from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) & New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

### **NJDEP can stop the assault on our health, safety and the environment posed by the NESE Project.**

#### **STEP ONE: Call Governor Murphy & Commissioner McCabe.**

The goal is to have them (1) get NJDEP to deny the water permit applications, (2) hear your concerns about NESE, and (3) be your partner in protecting our air, water, environment and wildlife.

**Governor Phil Murphy**  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

(609) 292-6000

[Constituent.relations@nj.gov](mailto:Constituent.relations@nj.gov)

**Catherine R. McCabe, Commissioner**  
NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
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Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

(609) 292-2885

[Commissioner@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Commissioner@dep.nj.gov)

#### **Water Permit Applications for the NESE Project are for:**

- Freshwater Wetlands
- Coastal Wetlands
- Flood Hazard Area
- Waterfront Development

**SUGGESTED SHORT SCRIPT:** My name is ... and I live in .... I am calling to express my opposition to the Northeast Supply Enhancement project (NESE). The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has the authority and responsibility to protect the waters and wetlands of New Jersey from damaging projects under the federal Clean Water Act. The NESE Project poses a serious threat to our shore, wetlands and marine life. Therefore, I urge the NJDEP to deny the water permit applications from Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corporation for the NESE Project.

**Options to add to calls are provided on the next three pages. Add your own personalized message. More detail about these points and references can be found in the Talking Points on the next pages and on [www.scrap-NESE](http://www.scrap-NESE) ( click on "Action Alert: Urge Gov. Murphy and NJDEP to Deny Water Permit Applications for Compressor Station 206" located on the right hand side of the home page under "Updates & News") & [www.stopthewilliamspipeline.org](http://www.stopthewilliamspipeline.org)**

## TALKING POINTS FOR PHONE CALLS

- I expect the NJDEP to protect us from the risks from erosion, digging through acid-producing soil and near Superfund and toxic sites, and adding greenhouse gas that increases climate-related risks of flooding and sea level rise with resultant health and economic harms. The NESE application does not avoid these risks.
- I expect the NJDEP to protect us and marine life from plans to dig up decades of toxins that have been buried beneath the sea floor, and this cannot be avoided by constructing a pipeline in Raritan Bay.
- I expect NJDEP to consider that the methane which will be released and leaked for decades from the compressor station and pipelines would add to climate change impacts on the severe weather events that have been increasing and threaten both our shore and inland areas.

### **1. Risks to Water Supply and Groundwater**

Construction of the NESE Project could reduce the capacity of wetlands to buffer flood flow and control erosion. There was no factual determination by Williams/Transco that their Erosion and Sediment Control Plan would ensure that ground or surface water would not be degraded.

Both the Compressor Station 206 and Madison Loop are considered to be “major developments” under the Stormwater Management rules, and the entire NESE Project needs to be in compliance with the Stormwater Management rules. Thus far, the applications do not meet these requirements.

### **2. Risks from Construction in Raritan Bay**

The construction of a pipeline under the sea floor is a highly intrusive process that threatens the progress made in cleaning the waters and air of the Raritan and New York Lower Harbor Bays. The excavation of a trench that is a minimum of six feet deep over a 23.5 mile-long path under Raritan Bay and New York Lower Harbor will dig up toxic substances now buried in the sea floor. Trenching will kick-up more than 1 million cubic yards of sediment containing heavy metals and PCBs. The trenching will churn these toxins up into the water, threatening both marine and human health.

The number and nature of marine vessels that will be intensively engaged 24/7 for much of a nine-month period will be powered by engines producing noxious gases that pollute the air.

### **3. Need for this Added Gas in New York is in Doubt**

Despite the claims of Williams/Transco and National Grid, the outlook for natural gas demand in the region simply does not warrant increasing the supply. The Northeast Supply Enhancement Project is an expensive project that nobody needs. A March 2019 report by former New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Regional Director Suzanne Mattei culled data from a huge range of sources to show that National Grid’s claim

that this source of fracked gas is necessary to serve a growing demand is just that: a claim. Mattei shows decisively that the demand for gas to heat homes and businesses will decline over the next ten years due to energy efficiency and the availability of alternative technologies.

#### **4. NESE is not in the Public Interest**

If NESE's Compressor Station 206 and pipeline in & by the Raritan Bay are constructed, we and future generations will be subjected to risks from air and water pollution, potential explosions, and extreme weather events. We believe that exposure to pollutants, carcinogens and poisons, and safety risks for the profits of the fossil fuel industry should not be acceptable.

#### **5. NJ Clean Energy Goals would be thwarted by NESE**

- NESE is one of a dozen currently proposed fossil fuel-burning projects in NJ.
- Building it would be in opposition to Governor Murphy's goals for increased clean energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- Operating NESE would create increased greenhouse gas and other toxic chemical emissions, and NJ is already an ozone-compromised region.
- Most projects of Williams/Transco in NJ have been expanded within a few years.
- Though the Marcellus Shale region has a lot of gas, NJ should not bear the safety & health risks of company profits to become the Pipeline State.

#### **6. Air Quality & Health Impact**

In addition to threats to health from the toxic emissions from gas-fired compressor stations, the NESE Project's impact on climate change can be seen in flooding, temperature increases, other health risks, and displacement. As the climate warms and atmospheric carbon dioxide increases, the amount and potency of the allergens like ragweed and airborne fungi increases, with significant consequences for exacerbating asthma and other forms of respiratory distress. Other consequences could include higher cooling costs and a heightened risk of heat stroke. Warmer temperatures will also exacerbate the risk of vector-borne diseases like Lyme and West Nile Disease.

Extreme weather events not only result in damage to property, businesses, infrastructure and the environment, but also trigger stress and depression in people and are associated with costly health risks like water borne infections as well as increases in dampness and mold that trigger more allergies and respiratory disorders. Milder, shorter winters have increased the population of disease-carrying insects in our area. Longer and wetter seasons lead to more asthma, allergies and respiratory disorders. Flooding events are a pathway for pollution and bacteria to enter our waterways.

## **7. Safety Risk – Fires or Explosions**

Williams/Transco's Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE), with its proposed compression station, would be pushing more gas, faster and hotter, through aging lines. This could lead to increased corrosion rates as well as weld failures.

New Jersey has already begun to step up and take a proactive approach to prevent a devastating accident by passing pipeline safety resolution ACR164 out of committee and its sister resolution SCR118 through the full senate - telling the federal government that we can no longer tolerate the much weaker requirements interstate pipelines (like NESE) are held to.

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