

Catherine R. McCabe, Commissioner
State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

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**Re: Proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement Project
Program Interest #: 0000-01-1001.3; Activity #s: LUP 190001 & LUP190002)**

- Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit
- Waterfront Development Individual Permits (In-Water & Upland)
- Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit
- Coastal Wetlands Individual Permit

Requests:

- (1) Request that NJDEP hold three fact-finding meetings (i.e. public hearings) pertaining to separate aspects of the above permit applications:
 - one near the proposed Compressor Station 206 in Franklin Township (Somerset County) ,
 - one by the Madison & Raritan Bay Loops in Old Bridge & Sayreville (Middlesex County), and
 - one in the Bayshore area of Monmouth County
- (2) Request that the deadline for submitting public comments be extended beyond 30 days after the July 3, 2019 publication of the above permit applications in the DEP Bulletin

Dear Commissioner McCabe:

I am writing regarding the new permit applications (referenced above) for the Northeast Supply Enhancement (“NESE”) Project that Transco recently submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) following DEP’s denial of a prior set of applications on June 5, 2019. These new applications were received by DEP on June 12, 2019 and published in the DEP Bulletin on July 3, 2019.

I. Request for Fact-Finding Meetings

I am requesting that DEP hold two fact-finding meetings (i.e. public hearings) on these new permit applications for the NESE Project. In general, the activities associated with these new permit applications involve significant potential environmental impacts. These include (but are not limited to):

- Impacts from onshore construction to freshwater wetlands, State open waters, wetland transition areas, and coastal wetlands;
- Impacts from offshore construction to benthic species (e.g. shellfish), fish (e.g. sturgeon and flounder), marine mammals (e.g. whales and seals), and offshore water quality (due to the resuspension of contaminated sediments); and
- Impacts from stormwater runoff at proposed Compressor Station 206 to surface water quality.

In addition, despite the revisions made in these new permit applications, there remain ongoing concerns that were raised about the previous permit applications that were denied. These include -- but are not limited to -- (1) whether Transco has fully demonstrated that there is “no practicable alternative” (including system alternatives or a different site selection) to the proposed Compressor Station 206, (2) whether Transco has fully demonstrated a “compelling public need” for the proposed Compressor Station 206 as defined under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules, and (3) whether Transco has fully demonstrated how it would avoid or minimize adverse impacts to surface water quality due to the construction of the Raritan Loop.

DEP must allow the public to provide the agency with more information on the potential environmental impacts and ongoing concerns listed above in the forum of fact-finding meetings. These meetings should be held in locations that are easily accessible to concerned or impacted residents. This will allow DEP to properly evaluate these new permit applications before it makes any decision.

II. Request for Extension of Public Comment Deadline

Although these new permit applications were received by DEP on June 12, 2019, a substantial amount of supplemental materials related to these applications was submitted to DEP on or about June 28, 2019. The initial permit applications and these supplemental materials are only available to view at the affected municipalities’ clerks’ offices or the NJDEP office during business hours, and many impacted or concerned residents cannot review all of the documents and plans during those times. Thus, the standard 30-day deadline for providing public comments – starting on July 3, 2019 and ending on August 2, 2019 – will not provide adequate time for members of the public to develop and submit meaningful comments to DEP. Consequently, I request that DEP extend the deadline to provide additional time for the public to comment.

Sincerely,

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Date:** _____