

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, and Coastal Wetlands Individual Permit

Request: NJDEP to 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

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 would like to thank the DEP for its June 5, 2019 denial of Williams/Transco’s prior set of Land Use permit applications and for extending the comment period until August 23. Williams/Transco’s new Land Use permit applications – submitted merely one week after the denial – still fail to satisfy the applicable New Jersey statutes and regulations, including New Jersey’s stringent requirements for issuing a Water Quality Certificate under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act.

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 Bay 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.

Sincerely,

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Address: _____

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

Email: _____ **Date:** _____