

**RESOLUTION - SUPPORT OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S DENIAL  
OF ALL PERMITS FOR THE NORTHEAST SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT (NESE) PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey has substantial excess pipeline capacity to meet its needs, even during extreme cold periods, and by 2030 is predicted to have 1.3 billion cubic feet of unnecessary capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the excess capacity, seven new pipelines are proposed for the state. The equivalent of five new and proposed compressor stations is within a fifty-mile radius of central New Jersey. Recently developed fracking techniques allow the extraction of natural gas from the Appalachians, and companies are racing to profit from this fossil fuel supply, creating a boom where much of the market is overseas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Williams/Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project is a \$926 million proposed natural gas pipeline project that would transport fracked gas through New Jersey from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania to energy markets in New York; and

**WHEREAS**, further development of untapped gas reserves is inconsistent with the climate goals in the Paris Agreement. Replacing coal plants with new gas plants will not cut emissions by nearly enough to meet climate goals, even if methane leakage is kept to a minimum. It is a myth that natural gas can be a bridge to a clean affordable energy future; and

**WHEREAS**, multibillion-dollar gas infrastructure built today is designed to operate for decades to come and there are substantial barriers to closing down infrastructure ahead of its expected economic lifespan. This creates a significant risk that new infrastructure will become costly, stranded assets; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey cannot achieve 100% clean energy and an 80% reduction in emissions economy-wide by 2050, as state law requires, without a transition away from gas and other polluting fossil fuels; and

**WHEREAS**, the dramatic and ongoing cost declines for wind and solar energy, and energy efficiency measures, allow for a low cost pathway for the replacement of dirty fossil fuels with non-polluting energy; and

**WHEREAS**, increased gas flow and velocity from the proposed compressor station and new pipes into aging pipes could stress the safety dynamics of New Jersey's aging pipeline system. Rupture and explosion of pipelines occur regularly with catastrophic damage to people, wildlife and property. Furthermore, interstate pipelines are not built to New Jersey's higher safety standards for in-state lines. After the tragic accident in Massachusetts in September of 2018, the Massachusetts legislature ordered a study of the safety impacts of new major gas infrastructure on existing transmission pipelines. That same year, the New Jersey state Senate passed a resolution to the federal government requesting that all inter-state lines meet New Jersey's higher safety standards; and

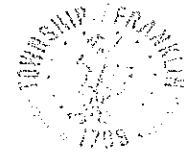
**WHEREAS**, compressor stations negatively affect the quality of the air and are a safety risk. Compressor stations are subject to regular planned as well as emergency "blowdowns" that release methane and methyl mercaptan into the air, as well as high temperature exhaust which contains carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds such as formaldehyde, benzene and toluene. They are a potent source of ground level ozone production. Plumes of toxic gas can travel for 10 miles or more. In addition, compressor stations have experienced a number of fires and explosions; and

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**WHEREAS**, Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio oppose the NESE Project. A substantially researched report by 350.org shows that National Grid's unsupported arguments for increasing gas demand are fundamentally flawed. New York's energy needs can be met through recently legislated increased energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy sources, eliminating the need for the NESE Project. New York cannot reach its newly mandated state and New York City clean energy goals if NESE is built; and

**WHEREAS**, construction of the NESE pipeline across Raritan Bay would dredge up toxic sediments and disturb 14,000 acres of habitat for shellfish, horseshoe crabs and marine mammals - setting back decades of restoration in the Bay, where whales are seen breaching once again, as well as devastating local tourism and fishing economies; and

**WHEREAS**, construction of the proposed Compressor Station 206 for the NESE Project threatens significant adverse impacts to the state-threatened barred owl and to protected vernal habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey DEP has sufficient information to determine that the NESE Project cannot be constructed in a manner that meets the stringent environmental standards required by state laws and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey DEP has already denied prior permit applications for the NESE Project;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2019 by the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Mayor and Council of the Township of Franklin oppose the construction of the NESE Project and urge its representatives in the New Jersey Legislature and the United States Congress to oppose the NESE Project.
2. The Mayor and Council of the Township of Franklin oppose the construction of a compressor station on any proposed location in and around the Township of Franklin as it would have severe detrimental impacts to residential communities in the area.
3. The Mayor and Council of the Township of Franklin urge the New Jersey DEP to continue to deny any and all permits for the Williams/Transco NESE Project.
4. This resolution will be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe.
5. This resolution will be submitted to the New Jersey DEP dockets of NESE (Program Interest # 0000-01-10001.3, Activity # LUP 190001 and Activity # LUP 190002.)
6. This resolution will be forwarded to State Assemblymen Joseph Daniels and Joseph Egan, State Senator Bob Smith, U.S. Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, U.S. Senator Cory Booker, and U.S. Senator Robert Menendez.

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township will continue to take such actions as may prove beneficial to the residents of the Township of Franklin in opposing Williams/Transco's applications to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project.

## CERTIFICATION

I, Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk of the Township of Franklin, in the County of Somerset, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Council at a Work Session/Regular Meeting held on the 10/22/2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Township this 10/23/2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Marie McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ann Marie McCarthy  
Township Clerk