

To:

Governor Philip D. Murphy
Office of the Governor - State of New Jersey
20 West State St., 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625

Catherine R. McCabe
Commissioner - N.J. Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State St., 7th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project Applications submitted on January 21, 2020
Program Interest # 0000-01-1001.3 Activity # LUP200001

Dear Governor Murphy and Commissioner McCabe:

I urge you to deny the most recent set of applications for the NESE Project. After the NJDEP denied the applications in June 2019, Williams/Transco has again failed to adequately address the deficiencies that were cited in their applications in June 2019 and again in January 2020. However, concerns persist about the health and safety of people, wildlife and the environment from construction and operation of the NESE Project, and the questionable assertion that the gas is needed by National Grid.

This is the fourth time that Williams/Transco has sought to obtain water permits from NJDEP's Division of Land Use. The new applications do not include a construction schedule for the offshore Raritan Bay Loop, and the plans to use a different access road to the proposed Compressor Station 206 still do not have approval from FERC or Franklin Township which has an agricultural easement for over 300' of the proposed extension of the Higgins Farm Superfund Site/EPA road.

Unless you deny the permit applications for NESE, people who depend on the Bayshore region for their livelihood and recreation would be subject to the impacts from multiple toxins that would be unearthed and spread throughout the water. There were no studies or modeling of compound, long-term or synergistic impacts from multiple toxins on human health or the environment.

Unless you deny the permit applications for NESE, people living and traveling in Franklin Township, Princeton, South Brunswick, and the Bayshore region, and surrounding areas would be subject to ongoing releases of cancer-causing air toxins which exceed newly adopted standards of health protectiveness.

Unless you deny the permit applications for NESE, there will be leaked methane for decades, and NESE would lock the region into reliance on fossil fuels when both New Jersey and New York are committed to reducing greenhouse gases since climate change impacts are clearly evident in our shore communities and elsewhere. We cannot permit the build-out of new fossil fuel infrastructure and shipping for a Project that threatens our families' health, safety, and homes. One need only look back at the devastation of Super Storm Sandy, observe the recent alarming increase in flash floods, or look forward to the projected effects of sea level rise to appreciate that this is not hyperbole, but reality.

For nearly four years, elected officials and residents have voiced their opposition to the NESE Project and have provided scientific and data-driven information about the risks of NESE and how the applications do not meet our environmental standards. I support the clean energy goals and efforts of New Jersey and New York. I rely on the NJDEP to deny the permits since the applications still do not meet regulatory standards. Natural gas is not a bridge fuel, and I urge you to support a more rapid and just transition to renewable energy.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Name:

Signature:

Address:

Date: / /