

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 45

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Expresses to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission opposition to proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement Project; urges consideration of certain alternative projects.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** expressing to the Federal Energy
2 Regulatory Commission the Senate's opposition to the proposed
3 Northeast Supply Enhancement Project due to its numerous
4 public health and safety risks and urging consideration of
5 alternative projects that may satisfy New York's energy growth
6 needs without risking the health and safety of New Jersey
7 residents and visitors, and the environment.

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9 **WHEREAS**, The Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project is a
10 proposed capacity expansion of the Transco Pipeline, an interstate
11 natural gas transmission pipeline owned and operated by Williams
12 Partners, L.P. (Williams), an Oklahoma-based company, which also
13 owns and operates Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
14 (Transco), the company that operates natural gas transmission
15 pipelines that transport natural gas from production areas to
16 customers located in the northeastern United States; and

17 **WHEREAS**, In March 2017, Williams announced that Transco filed a
18 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity application with
19 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) seeking
20 authorization for the NESE Project to be built; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The NESE Project includes a proposed 32,000 horsepower
22 natural gas compressor station to be located in Franklin Township,
23 Somerset County, New Jersey on land previously owned by Trap
24 Rock Industries LLC, which operates the nearby Kingston Quarry;
25 and

26 **WHEREAS**, The proposed natural gas compressor station is to include
27 two natural gas-powered turbine compressors to maintain the
28 pressure while increasing the volume capacity of natural gas
29 transported through the regional natural gas transmission pipeline
30 system to better facilitate delivery to customers; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Much of the current natural gas transmission pipeline
32 system in the area is approximately 50 years old and it is unclear
33 whether this older natural gas transmission pipeline will be able to
34 withstand the increased natural gas volume and velocity of
35 transported gas proposed under the NESE Project; and

36 **WHEREAS**, The Kingston Quarry is an active blasting zone, which
37 may increase the potential for an explosion at the natural gas
38 compressor station and raises concern over the health and safety of
39 local residents; and

40 **WHEREAS**, Williams has not made any assurances to local residents
41 that appropriate steps will be taken to train and equip surrounding
42 volunteer fire departments for an emergency response to a natural
43 gas explosion; and

44 **WHEREAS**, This area of Franklin Township suffers from low water
45 pressure and Williams has not proposed a plan to coordinate with
46 the Franklin Township Public Works to increase water pressure to
47 the natural gas compressor station to assist volunteer fire
48 departments in the event of an emergency; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, In addition to low water pressure, the roads surrounding
2 this area do not have functioning fire hydrants, which limits any
3 type of emergency response from fire fighters; and
4 **WHEREAS**, Local residents have not been informed about the effect on
5 the air quality surrounding the natural gas compressor station,
6 especially during “blowdowns,” or the deliberate venting of natural
7 gas for maintenance purposes, to relieve pressure within the
8 pipeline, or in an emergency situation; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Blowdowns can last for up to two hours and produce a
10 noise comparable to a commercial jet taking off; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Williams’ application to FERC in their report concerning
12 air quality and noise indicates that ongoing annual chemical
13 airborne emissions related to the NESE Project include several
14 chemicals that are known carcinogens in parts per million
15 concentrations; and
16 **WHEREAS**, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention attribute
17 chronic illnesses to low concentration exposure of these chemicals,
18 and several of these chemicals are lethal to humans in higher
19 concentrations; and
20 **WHEREAS**, The FERC and other State and federal agencies have yet to
21 perform a thorough health impact assessment of toxic airborne
22 chemicals on the highly concentrated population of the area
23 surrounding the compressor station, and have yet to perform long-
24 term modeling studies of contamination of the immediate area
25 where there are plans to convert the Kingston Quarry to a reservoir;
26 and
27 **WHEREAS**, The NESE Project includes a plan to build 23.49 miles of
28 new natural gas transmission pipeline under the Raritan Bay to
29 increase the natural gas supply to customers outside of New Jersey;
30 and
31 **WHEREAS**, The proposed workspace and construction will disturb 22
32 square miles (14,100 acres) of Raritan Bay contaminated seafloor
33 sediment, impacting aquatic life and nearby beaches; and
34 **WHEREAS**, The Raritan Bay workspace intrudes on the Jetty Sector of
35 the Raritan Bay Slag Superfund Site; and
36 **WHEREAS**, The FERC’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
37 issued on March 23, 2018, failed to adequately address these air
38 quality and noise concerns and the impact on the Raritan Bay; and
39 **WHEREAS**, On April 20, 2018, the New York Department of
40 Environmental Conservation recently denied Williams’ application
41 for a State water quality permit for the NESE Project due to
42 “potentially significant” impact on water quality; and
43 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper, and in the public interest,
44 for this House to express to the FERC its opposition to the proposed
45 NESE Project and to urge the FERC to consider alternative projects
46 that may satisfy New York’s energy growth needs without
47 risking the health and safety of New Jersey residents and
48 visitors, and the environment; now, therefore,

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1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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1. This House expresses to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) its opposition to the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project and urges the FERC to consider alternative projects that may satisfy New York's energy growth needs without risking the health and safety of New Jersey residents and visitors, and the environment.

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2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Chairman and each commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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15 STATEMENT

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17 This resolution expresses to the Federal Energy Regulatory
18 Commission (FERC) its opposition to the Northeast Supply
19 Enhancement (NESE) Project, a proposed capacity expansion of the
20 Transco Pipeline, an interstate natural gas transmission pipeline,
21 which includes a natural gas compressor station to be located in
22 Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey on land
23 previously owned by Trap Rock Industries LLC, which operates the
24 nearby Kingston Quarry.

25 Much of the current natural gas transmission pipeline system in
26 the area is approximately 50 years old and it is unclear whether this
27 older natural gas transmission pipeline will be able to withstand the
28 increased natural gas volume and velocity proposed by the NESE
29 Project. The Kingston Quarry is an active blasting zone, which may
30 increase the potential for an explosion at the natural gas compressor
31 station and raises concern over the health and safety of local
32 residents.

33 In March 2017, it was announced that Transco, which operates
34 natural gas transmission pipelines in the northeast, filed an
35 application with the FERC seeking authorization for the NESE
36 Project to be built. This House opposes the NESE Project and urges
37 the FERC to consider alternative projects that may satisfy New
38 York's energy growth needs without risking the health and safety of
39 New Jersey residents and visitors, and the environment.