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July 24, 2025

Cheryl A. Sandrow
President and Chief Executive Officer
NYSDEC – Division of Environmental Permits
625 Broadway, 4th Floor
Albany, NY 12207

Submitted via email to DEPEnergy@dec.ny.gov

Re: Northeast Supply Enhancement Project Application for Water Quality Certification

Dear Ms. Sandow:

I write to urge DEC to once again reject the Water Quality Certification (WQC) for the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project. Additionally, I request that the comment period for this and other applications related to NESE be extended from the current 30 days to a total of 120 days, and include public hearings.

Since 2020, when DEC rejected the previous WQC application for NESE, nothing has changed that would justify a different outcome. It remains the case that this project would result in significant contamination of the waters off New York City and harm to marine life. As was the case in 2020, the additional methane gas supplied by this pipeline is not necessary in the short term, and even less so in the medium and long term. Constructing the pipeline will contribute to an increase in rates for National Grid customers in New York City and on Long Island at a time when New Yorkers are already struggling with rapidly escalating utility costs. And there is simply no question that this pipeline is not permissible under state law as laid out in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

In 2020, DEC rightly rejected an identical application based on the impacts of the trenching required to bury the pipeline in the seabed. Those impacts remain the same today, with the risk of releasing dangerous levels of arsenic, PCBs, dioxin, and other toxins into the water, harming marine life and polluting beaches throughout the region.

This new and unaffordable piece of fracked gas infrastructure is not needed. In 2017, National

Grid claimed this pipeline was necessary to meet their forecast for increasing gas demand in their New York City and Long Island service territories. This was based on a perceived need to serve buildings switching from heavy heating oil, to ensure reliability of service to NYCHA housing, and to supply an estimated 8,000 new customers per year. These claims were debunked at the time, and in the eight years since they were made there has not been a shortage of gas supply in these service territories, in spite of the fact that the pipeline was not built.

Further, since 2017 there have been numerous developments in state and local policy, and the economics of non-gas heating and cooking options, that will result in a downward revision of projections of the size of the future gas system. The combination of the plummeting cost of solar, storage, heat pumps, and induction stoves, and other appliance energy efficiency improvements, combined with state and city policies like the CLCPA, Local Law 97, the Advanced Building Codes, Appliance and Equipment Standards Act, the All-Electric Buildings Act, and the recently-passed repeal of the wasteful and expensive 100-foot rule subsidy, will lead to a continuation of the trend away from gas and toward modern energy options. The New York Independent Systems Operator has also not identified any need for additional gas to supply electricity generation in the downstate region.

Yet, despite there being no need for this new infrastructure, National Grid ratepayers would be saddled with the cost, which is conservatively estimated at \$1.4 billion, and will likely cost much more as a result of President Trump's tariffs on steel. This price tag would increase customer bills in New York City and on Long Island by almost 5%, or more than \$10 per month. In a context where 42% of New Yorkers have fallen behind on their utility bills in the last five years, and 23% have experienced a shut-off, building new, unneeded methane gas infrastructure is not how we will deliver affordability.

I once again urge you to reject this application, and to extend the comment period so that New Yorkers have an opportunity to make their voices heard on this expensive, polluting, and unnecessary project.

Sincerely,



Liz Krueger
28th Senate District

CC: Amanda Lefton, Commissioner, NYSDEC
Ashley Dougherty, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Office of the Governor