



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Regional Pipeline Advisory Committee

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| Date: | July 13, 2015 |
| Time: | 3:00 p.m. |
| Location: | JWO Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA |
| Duration: | 1.5 hours |
| Facilitator: | Linda Dunlavy, FRCOG Executive Director and Peggy Sloan, Planning Director |

Attendees:

- Bill Perlman, FRCOG Executive Committee
- Meg Burch, Town of Conway
- Ariel Elan, Town of Montague
- Carolyn Shores Ness, Town of Deerfield
- Walter Ramsey, Town of Montague
- Brian Noble, Town of Northfield
- Bill Morris, Town of Erving
- Chris Myers, Town of Shelburne
- Roger Rosenblatt, Town of Montague
- Derek Brindisi, Town of Ashfield
- Jim Cutler, Town of Ashfield
- Deborah Andrew, Town of Shelburne
- Leigh Youngblood, Town of Warwick
- Greg Bradski, Town of Warwick

Guests

- Richie Davis, Greenfield Recorder
- Katie Eiseman, MassPlan

Staff:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Peggy Sloan, Planning Director
- Gretchen Johnson, Planning Grant Administrator

1 – Introductions and Review of May 13, 2015 and June 2 2015 Meeting Notes: Linda Dunlavy

L. Dunlavy, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. A round of introductions followed.

P. Sloan asked if there was consensus on the May 13th and June 2nd meeting notes. M. Burch asked for clarification on the recommended distance of co-located of pipeline and

electrical transmission lines by the engineer. P. Sloan stated that she would follow up on that issue.

2 – Presentation on MassPlan Activities related to the Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Proposed Pipeline: K. Eiseman, MassPlan

L. Dunlavy thanked K. Eiseman for coming to present.

K. Eiseman stated that MassPlan is a coalition of organizations and other community groups that are opposed to the pipeline. MassPlan strategizes in the best way to oppose the project. One strategy is to address the legal and regulatory issues. The pipeline needs to prove demand for the services. MassPlan offers advice to constituents. A full list of government comments and filings are available on the MassPlan website. K. Eiseman is also president of the Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast, Inc. (PLAN), which has been directly engaging in regulatory proceedings in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. PLAN is a broad-based coalition that includes organizations, businesses, legislators, municipalities and individuals. The towns of Ashfield, Conway, Montague and Northfield have joined PLAN.

The Mass DPU granted PLAN limited intervention status with respect to the Berkshire Gas contract and two other contracts; in a New Hampshire proceeding, PLAN has full Intervenor status. The current proceedings involve only the market path component of the pipeline. Towns intend to contribute to attorney fees to assist in precedent agreement proceedings. L. Youngblood asked if there are precedent agreements for supply path customers. K. Eiseman replied that there are. She stated that Kinder Morgan has contracts with the same gas companies for the supply path as for the market path. P. Sloan asked about the Spectra Pipeline project. K. Eiseman stated that there are three Spectra proposals. One of the Spectra proposals has been approved. The Kinder Morgan project that will affect Franklin County is the only project that is a new pipeline path. The Spectra pipelines are proposed to go along the coast. A. Elan asked if the pipelines projects are in competition or complimenting each other. K. Eiseman stated that Kinder Morgan refers to the NED as a competing pipeline. FERC is questioning the need for all of the proposed pipeline capacity. K. Eiseman stated that in addition to the website, there is a list serve that addresses policy concerns, pipeline news and organizing efforts.

L. Dunlavy stated that K. Eiseman was invited to ensure that the work is not being duplicated. L. Dunlavy invited K. Eiseman to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

3 – Presentation on Compressor Station Visit: B. Noble

B. Noble stated that a few Northfield officials and some officials from Franklin, New York traveled to Wellsboro Pennsylvania to visit the pipeline compressor station. B. Noble stated that he is reporting observations on a compressor station on a particular day and particular time only. The Town of Northfield is officially opposed to the Pipeline project. The primary goal of the trip was to explore how the Town of Wellsboro handled the construction period of the compressor station. Wellsboro is similar in population and

median age. It is predominantly Caucasian and has a similar number of households and per capita income. Their police and fire departments are also of similar size. The town did add two more full time police officers during the construction period. Wellsboro does have natural gas fracking occurring in their community. The gas pipeline entered their town for the first time in the 1960's. The gas lines are co-located with the water lines. B. Noble noted that geologically Northfield is very different from Wellsboro.

The compressor station was not noisy from the road. However, inside the building it was very noisy. The Northfield Fire Chief was allowed to thoroughly inspect the compressor station. During construction some roads were destroyed but were repaired and left in better condition than they were originally. Wellsboro requested and received \$1 million in road bonds. The pipeline runs under their Main Street and there are gas lamps lit around the clock. The pipe is twelve inches in diameter under Main Street. The construction made instant millionaires of some farmers. The town has done well through taxes that are primarily from the gas fracking activities and not the pipeline or the compressor station. The construction of the pipeline and compressor station took two years. The town experienced an economic boom from the construction crews and a recession when they left. The town did not have a host community agreement. The tax structure is very different in Pennsylvania than it is in Massachusetts. The EMS department went from a volunteer organization to part time during construction. The town offices were renovated. Every request from the town for renovations, improvement and equipment was fulfilled. Some wells were in the construction path and were moved. Emergency trainings are offered every six months.

Wellsboro has two 16,000 h.p. compressors. Both of the compressors were similar in noise level. The Northfield officials visited the closest residential neighbor to the compressor and there was no evident noise. The lights were shut off at night and only come on when motion activated. The blowdown stacks were equipped with silencers. B. Noble passed out pictures. L. Youngblood asked if there was any evidence of renewable energy in Wellsboro. B. Noble replied that there was a solar array at the compressor station and solar panels on residences and solar farms were in the area. He did not see any windmills. The pipeline ran through a mini "Grand Canyon" and he could see little evidence of the past construction in that area. B. Noble stated that the second compressor station was built in three months. The set back of the compressor station building was 150 yards. The closest neighbor was 250 yards from the building. There were pipeline yellow markers evident throughout the town. The compressor stations proposed for Northfield are two 30,000 h.p. compressors and one 20,000 h.p. compressor.

The compressor in Wellsboro is only one third of the size of the compressors proposed for Northfield. The only other compressor station of that size is located in the Rocky Mountains. There is a large station in Alabama. There have been reports of sickness near that compressor station and complaints of the noise level.

L. Dunlavy thanked B. Noble for his presentation.

4 – Review and Discussion of Revised Scope of Work for Legal Services & Technical Assistance to Towns from FRCOG related to the proposed Kinder Morgan NED pipeline project: L. Dunlavy & Committee Members

L. Dunlavy stated that the Scope of Work has been revised since the last meeting. No comments have been received on the revision. The FRCOG is conducting work on this project through a DLTA grant and funds awarded from the FRCOG Executive Committee from free cash. It is still unsettled how to handle town funds since not all of the towns have committed to providing funding. L. Dunlavy stated that for now, the FRCOG staff will work with the FRCOG funds. L. Dunlavy reviewed the Scope of Services that was included in the meeting packet. Discussion followed.

P. Sloan stated that there have been meetings with other RPAs in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The RPAs have been drafting one to two page study requests. Fourteen of the seventeen have been drafted. P. Sloan will email them out when they have been completed. The RPAs are preparing a cover letter stating that the requests have been prepared jointly. A sample letter will be sent out to towns if they would like to support the study requests as well. C. Ness stated that the proposed pipeline is for up to a 42 inch pipe. Her concern is how to control the location of future compressor stations. K. Eiseman stated that an application for an additional compressor station is more likely to be approved than the original construction of a new pipeline. A. Elan reminded everyone that the deadline for comments to the FERC is August 31, 2015. B. Noble stated that the Town of Northfield is unsure if becoming an Intervenor is financially viable. K. Eiseman stated that there is no cost associated with becoming an Intervenor. However, any subsequent legal action taken as an Intervenor can be very expensive. The FRCOG will apply for Intervenor status with certain goals in mind. Towns are also welcome to join MassPlan and have access to their attorney at a pro-rated rate. P. Sloan stated that requesting Intervenor status will leave the option open for a town to legally challenge provisions of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity if issued by FERC. She advised preparing the request for Intervenor status over the summer so it is ready to submit to the Select Board. The window to apply for Intervenor status is very short once the Notice of Application by Kinder Morgan/TGP is issued by FERC. Intervenor status allows a community to address specific concerns such as groundwater, emergency services, noise levels, etc. Discussion ensued.

L. Dunlavy asked for a consensus on the Scope of Work. The consensus of the Committee was in favor of the Scope of Work as presented.

5 –Update on Issuance of NOI by FERC, Scoping Sessions, & Review and Discussion of Potential Study Requests for EIS (NEPA) & EIR (MEPA): L. Dunlavy and P. Sloan

The Franklin County Scoping Session will be held on July 29th at 6:30 p.m. at the Greenfield Middle School. The Resource Reports will be paid for by Kinder Morgan. The FERC will compile the NOI. Then Kinder Morgan will file the application. The EIS will be released after the application is submitted. The purpose of the pre-filings is to streamline the application process. Kinder Morgan will be able to hire a FERC approved consultant to conduct any of the study requests.

5 –Next Meeting Date/Other Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting/Adjourn: L. Dunlavy and P. Sloan

L. Youngblood requested that a representative from MEPA or EPA give a presentation at a future meeting.

The next meeting will be held on July 27th or 28th.

Copies of the handouts are available. Please contact G. Johnson at gjohnson@frcog.org or 413-774-3167 x126.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.