



Borough of Oakland  
Bergen County, New Jersey

**Resolution 21-194**

**Opposition to Construction of Compression Turbines on the Tennessee Gas Pipeline  
Running through Northern New Jersey**

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**WHEREAS**, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (“TGP”) has applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) for a “Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity” and to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for a Highlands Act exemption, air pollution permits, freshwater wetlands permits, stormwater management permits, and other permits required for its proposed “East 300 Upgrade Project”<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, this project includes the construction of a 19,000 horsepower gas compression station (“Compressor 327”) at 960 Burnt Meadow Road, Township of West Milford, Passaic County, New Jersey and the construction of a new 20,000 hp compressor that will more than triple the size of the existing compression station, “CS 325,” at 164 Libertyville Road in Wantage Township, Sussex County, New Jersey<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, no gas will be used by New Jersey residents, yet they will be put at risk; these projects will significantly increase the amount and pressure of gas transported through the pipeline from Pennsylvania through New Jersey to Westchester County, New York<sup>3</sup>; much of this pipeline is 65 years old and beyond its useful life; sections of it run near homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure in dozens of Northern New Jersey communities; and these projects increase the risk of leaks and catastrophic explosions, which can result in property destruction and deaths when they occur; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (“PHMSA”) failure reports, from 2006 to 2017 TGP had 111 significant incidents with their pipelines, resulting in \$89,815,380 in property damage and 19 federal enforcement actions<sup>4</sup> and such incidents may escalate as pipelines age; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Compressor 327 in West Milford is located in the Highlands Preservation Area, an exceptional natural resource which provides drinking water to more than half of the state of New Jersey<sup>5</sup> and this project is near two major reservoirs, protected wetlands, and a Category 1 Exceptional Value Stream, and construction and ongoing operation of these proposed industrial facilities can lead to groundwater pollution from chromium, benzene and hydrocarbons<sup>6</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/idmws/file\\_list.asp?accession\\_num=20200630-5546](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20200630-5546)

<sup>2</sup> [https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/idmws/file\\_list.asp?accession\\_num=20200630-5546](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20200630-5546), East 300 Upgrade\_Application (June 30, 2020) pp. 5-6.

<sup>3</sup> [https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/idmws/file\\_list.asp?accession\\_num=20200630-5546](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20200630-5546), East 300 Upgrade\_Application (June 30, 2020) pp. 3-4.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/safety-reports/pipeline-failure-investigation-reports>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/act/faq/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/08/f18/Addendum.pdf>, p. 27.

**WHEREAS**, in addition to normal operational emissions associated with gas-fired compressor stations, other sources of periodic emissions include planned and unplanned blowdowns, leaked gas (“fugitives”) and accidents, as well as leaks of volatile organic compounds (“VOCs”) removed from the gas stream and stored on site including hydrogen sulfide, mercury and other contaminants; and

**WHEREAS**, VOCs present at compressor stations include nitrogen dioxide, ethyl benzene, benzene, ethane, methanol, naphthalene and toluene; short term exposure to these chemicals can cause eye and respiratory tract irritation, headaches, dizziness, visual disorders, fatigue, loss of coordination, allergic skin reaction, nausea, and memory impairment; long-term effects include loss of coordination and damage to the liver, kidney, and central nervous system; and many VOCs are known carcinogens,<sup>7</sup> and benzene specifically is associated with childhood leukemia<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to VOC pollution, Particulate Matter (PM) released from compressors also poses a significant health concern and can interact with airborne VOCs increasing their impact; PM 2.5 may pose the greatest threat to the health of nearby residents, and inhalation affects both the respiratory and cardiovascular systems causing decreased lung function, aggravated asthma symptoms, and nonfatal heart attacks and high blood pressure<sup>9</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, natural gas is primarily made up of methane, a significant contributor to climate change, and is released during planned and unplanned blowdowns, and found to leak at every stage of the supply chain<sup>10</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, a flash fire at the Williams Transco gas compressor in Branchburg, NJ in 2013 caused two workers to be hospitalized and injuries to 13 others<sup>11</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, TGP's 300-line project, completed in November, 2011 seriously damaged Lake Lookover in Hewitt, NJ and Bearfort Waters in West Milford including the siltation and destruction of waterways through mudslides, increased flooding and impacts to drinking water wells<sup>12</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, during construction at the Williams Transco compressor station in Roseland NJ in 2013, the company conducted a “blow-down” of the facility, and released large amounts of gas and other chemicals into the local community, forcing an emergency evacuation of the nearby Roseland Elementary School<sup>13</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013 a 12,000-horsepower compressor station came online across the New York border from Wantage in Minisink New York, and has caused serious health impacts to residents including nosebleeds, headaches, rashes, and respiratory, gastrointestinal, and neurological symptoms<sup>14</sup>; and

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<sup>7</sup> EPA. An introduction to indoor air quality: volatile organic compounds.  
[http://www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html#Health\\_Effects](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html#Health_Effects)

<sup>8</sup> Marlyn T. Smith “Advances in understanding benzene health effects and susceptibility. Annual Review of Public Health. 2010; 31:133-48, p. 133.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/health-and-environmental-effects-particulate-matter-pm>

<sup>10</sup> <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acssuschemeng.6b00144>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.nj.com/somerset/2013/05/multiple\\_injuries\\_reported\\_at.html](https://www.nj.com/somerset/2013/05/multiple_injuries_reported_at.html)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.njherald.com/article/20130414/NEWS/909021406>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.nj.com/essex/2013/06/roseland\\_gas\\_compressor\\_station\\_faces\\_opposition\\_group\\_protests\\_constructi\\_on\\_at\\_council\\_meeting.html](https://www.nj.com/essex/2013/06/roseland_gas_compressor_station_faces_opposition_group_protests_constructi_on_at_council_meeting.html)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.recordonline.com/article/20151008/NEWS/151009420>

**WHEREAS**, the proposed TGP projects are within one mile of important natural and recreational resources, including two state parks, a state park trail, and a Wildlife Management Area, including High Point State Park, the Monksville Reservoir, Long Pond Ironworks State Park, Highlands Trail and Wanaque Wildlife Area<sup>15</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland has a principal responsibility to protect the health and safety of its residents, visitors, and businesses; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, in the interest of protecting its residents and businesses opposes construction of Compressor 327 station, the addition of a gas-powered turbine at the existing compression station CS 325 and TGP's attempt to exclude its activities from the Highlands Preservation Act; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Borough Clerk shall forward this Resolution to FERC, President Joe Biden, Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez, Congressman Josh Gottheimer, Governor Phil Murphy, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine McCabe, Highlands Council Chairman Carl Richko, North Jersey Water Supply Commission Chairman Howard L. Burrell, State Senator Holly Schepisi, Assemblyman Robert Auth, Assemblywoman DeAnne DeFuccio and County Executive James Tedesco.

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LINDA H. SCHWAGER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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LISA M. DUNCAN, BOROUGH CLERK

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Date Adopted

	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Biale						
Kulmala						
Pignatelli						
Slasinski						
Talamini						
Van Eck						
Mayor Schwager						

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<sup>15</sup> High Point State Park is located 0.85 mile west of CS 325; the Monksville Reservoir is located 2,000 feet west of the new Compressor 327; Long Pond Ironworks State Park is 0.01 mile southeast of the Compressor 327; Highlands Trail, a part of Long Pond Ironworks State Park, is 290 feet south of the new Compressor 327; and Wanaque Wildlife Area is 0.90 mile northeast of the new Compressor 327.