

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FERGAS](#)
Subject: FE Docket No. 14-179-LNG
Date: Monday, February 09, 2015 1:20:57 PM

Approval of Pieridae's export proposal would help turn hundreds of northeastern United States communities into unwilling conduits for the pipelines that would serve export terminals. With the Marcellus shale becoming one of the largest extraction regions, pipeline expansion is threatening communities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire with expanded and brand-new greenfields pipeline development. Many areas of this region are wild and rural, and as such, are a refuge for those who desire a rural lifestyle. They are also chief tourism destinations whose economy would be ruined by industrial development. The relatively pristine environment, largely dependent on well-water, dotted with certified organic agriculture and lands held in trust to preserve their rural character are currently under threat from proposals for some of the largest pipeline systems ever proposed.

Recent statements by one pipeline company state that they see their greenfields project as a starting point for further development as markets expand, eventually filling in more facilities along the way including compressor stations every 20 miles. They have also stated that only 23% of the gas in their pipeline would be used within the region, meaning the other 77% is destined for export. Further economic hardship would be brought by forcing domestic natural gas markets to compete with foreign markets, often paying prices three to five times higher. The economic devastation from lost tax revenue from decreased value of affected properties, health impacts to those who would now be living with industrial sites next door, the potential for significant incidents of pipeline rupture or explosion and the pollution and damage they would cause are far too heavy a burden for any region to bear for the profit of private corporations.

At a time when we need to rapidly accelerate our transition to clean energy generation, export terminals like this are fueling the reckless expansion of extreme extraction of fossil fuels. Natural gas, so often touted as a clean energy solution, is actually a highly potent greenhouse gas. Recent IPCC reports have revealed that methane is 86 times more powerful a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Infrastructure leaks at drilling sites, both fugitive and intentional emissions at "blow-down" sites along pipeline networks, and at distribution networks make natural gas' impact on the climate no better than the coal it's often replacing. Our efforts need to go into energy efficiency and renewable on a massive scale to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. Facilitating continuing or expanding consumption puts off this crucial transition, with global consequences.

Please deny this export proposal. The multiple impacts of environmental damage to areas bearing the pipelines to feed export facilities, the economic effect of forcing domestic markets to compete on a global scale and damage to the global environment from accelerated use of natural gas make this proposal not in the public interest. Furthermore, since many in the areas of the Northeast United States directly affected by expansion of exports only learned of this application over this past weekend, we would like to request an extension of time to properly and thoroughly comment and intervene.

Respectfully,
Rosemary Wessel
Founder, No Fracked Gas in Mass

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