



TOWN OF GROTON

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TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE WORKING GROUP COMMITTEE

Members

Chair John Giger, G-D School Committee
Vice Chair Peter Morrison, Cons. Comm.
Secretary John Llodra, Citizen at Large
Peter Cunningham, Selectman
John Petropoulos, Selectman
Kevin Kelly, GELD Manager
Dennis Eklof, Citizen at Large

Advisors

Mark Haddad, Town Manager
Steele McCurdy, Fire Chief
Takashi Tada (Cons. Comm. Alternate)

Meeting Date: December 1, 2014
Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton
Members: John Petropoulos, Kevin Kelly, Dennis Eklof, John Llodra, John Giger,
Peter Morrison, Peter Cunningham
Advising Member: Takashi Tada
Others: Mike Hartnett
Handouts: Agenda
Revised draft minutes November 3, 2014, draft minutes November 24, 2014

Meeting convened at 5:36 pm. John Giger asked the Committee to review past draft minutes.

Peter Cunningham moved to approve the November 3, 2014 minutes as revised. Dennis Eklof seconded and motion carried 7:0.

Kevin Kelly asked for time to revise a portion of the November 24, 2014 minutes. The chair agreed so review of these minutes will be deferred to the Committee's December 15th meeting.

Spectra Energy Update

Dennis Eklof has asked his contacts at Spectra Energy for an update, but he does not have any further information to report at this time.

John Giger called attention to a short document called Right-of-Way Easement Notification, Negotiations and Acquisition located in the media resources area of the Spectra website. The overview is more specific than some of the documents seen at the FERC website or on the Kinder Morgan website. The document will be re-posted on the Town's pipeline webpage.

Pipeline Safety Trust Conference in New Orleans

John Petropoulos has prepared a written summary of his impressions which he will share with the Committee at its next meeting on December 15.

Focus Team Reports

For the EVALUATE focus team, John Llodra said that with the precipitous drop in oil prices over Thanksgiving, there has been concern expressed about the financial health of a number of shale oil producers. The group discussed the recent OPEC decision to not raise oil prices and historic cartel decisions.

John Giger mentioned the recent liquefied natural gas (LNG) article which states that Massachusetts has infrastructure in place to utilize this fuel. Resident Rich Crane supplied this article and it is being posted on the

Town's pipeline webpage. Dennis Eklof agreed that an LNG option remains if one is willing to pay for the comparatively higher costs of this fuel (along the lines of \$10 per gallon of gas rather than a \$4 per gallon of gas price).

John Giger looked at the Brayton Point website and commented, as did Kevin Kelly, that the recent purchasers of this facility must have a reason to have paid for a facility that is slated to close. Among the discussion points, there was an observation that ISO New England provides real time energy pricing information on its website. Kevin Kelly said that ISO New England has done so for six or seven years and he will send a link to the public site (<http://www.iso-ne.com/isoexpress/> see the Markets and Operations Tab).

For the MITIGATE focus team, there is nothing to report at this time.

For the EDUCATE focus team, John Giger reported that there are a few new Pipeline webpage postings.

Dennis Eklof said that a volunteer videographer has done a video short containing his views on the proposed pipeline as well as affected homeowners in the projected path of the pipeline. Some cable stations have shown some of this videographer's work product. Committee members mentioned that Groton's cable station, run by Bob Coleman, is often looking for new content.

John Giger mentioned resident Nick Miller's comments to FERC regarding the likelihood of pipelines to decrease property values. John Petropoulos spoke about how repeating and publishing anecdotes that may only add a single data point on the subject can be unhelpful. Specifically, such talk can amount to speculation and may do more harm than good. Further, John Petropoulos noted that there is some data and experience to suggest that long term property values may be minimally affected by a built pipeline. Peter Morrison observed that it is difficult to define the market drop attributable to the just the pipeline as opposed to other factors such as regular market fluctuation, and the fact that this is an area with dissimilar lot sizes and varying house characteristics.

John Giger invited Committee members to consider any future actions they would recommend to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee discussed the potential value of resending the Selectmen letters to Kinder Morgan on permission to survey. In sum, Committee members who expressed an opinion split on the potential leverage that the Town may have with Kinder Morgan. John Petropoulos explained that a town who gives early permission to a pipeline company to route a pipeline through its land is a permission that is most valuable to the pipeline company. By contrast, a town that never grants permission or is the last municipality to give permission is arguably a permission that is least significant to a pipeline company.

John Giger reflected on advice he heard that FERC does not want to see a large amount of eminent domain takings for a project so refusal to give easements through negotiation can be an indicator to FERC that this particular route would involve more takings, thus decreasing its chances for FERC approval. The Committee did not see enough clear benefit to the Town to warrant selectmen action now.

Pipeline Safety Trust grants

John Petropoulos will revisit this topic at the December 15th meeting.

Peter Cunningham asked Dennis Eklof if there have been any updates from the regional groups working on the pipeline. Dennis Eklof replied that there has been nothing for the past couple of weeks.

The Committee wondered about traffic levels to the Town's pipeline webpage. John Petropoulos replied that the Town has Google analytics in use to track the traffic. About 30% of the traffic is from Groton with the balance from around the world and specifically with a lot coming from the Houston, Texas area.

Future Pipeline Working Group meetings are scheduled for December 15, 2014 and January 5, 2015.

Peter Morrison moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm. Kevin Kelly seconded and the motion carried 7:0.

Notes by Fran Stanley.