



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

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: January 12, 2015
Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton
Members: John Petropoulos, Kevin Kelly, Dennis Eklof, John Giger, John Llodra
Peter Cunningham, Takashi Tada
Advisor: Mark Haddad
Handouts: Agenda, draft minutes December 15, 2015 draft minutes, Annual Town Report
guidelines, 2015 Spring Town Meeting schedule

Meeting convened at 5:35 pm. John Giger asked the committee to review past draft minutes.

Kevin Kelly moved to approve the December 15, 2014 draft minutes. Peter Cunningham seconded and motion carried 7:0 (Peter Morrison absent and Takashi Tada voting as alternate).

Next, the committee discussed the Synapse study titled Massachusetts Low Gas Demand Analysis: Final Report. This study was funded by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and was released on January 7, 2015. Kevin Kelly outlined a summary of assumptions that seem weighted against pipeline creation:

- 2 GW pump storage operating by 2020;
- 2 GW cape wind by 2020;
- 2 GW of power from Hydro Quebec exclusively for MA
- LNG from Canada available at full capacity;
- Assume that all coal plants that haven't announced their retirement will stay open until 2030; and
- 1 GW batteries.

Even so, the Synapse study concluded that some additional pipeline capacity for natural gas is needed. Kevin Kelly expressed surprise that there was that much truth in the study given the extent of the unrealistic assumptions. Others noted that the solitary focus on Massachusetts instead of all of New England's energy needs resulted in a report with limited utility.

Dennis Eklof explained that the study aimed to see if there were non natural gas energy sources that could meet Massachusetts' needs. Dennis Eklof pointed out a substantial mathematical error to the contractor that the report authors accepted as true, but were slow to correct. The study also ignored the probability of market volatility in natural gas prices when there is concentrated reliance on natural gas in the Commonwealth.

John Llodra asked if it was a static or dynamic study. Dennis Eklof replied that it was very much a static study. The report conclusion was that we needed 600 to 900 CFM per day in Massachusetts. John Giger said that is common to have scenarios developed that are both best case and worst case. Typically, the contractor is then asked to choose the most likely scenario. Perhaps the contractor here did not have time and resources to produce the most likely set of circumstances.

Peter Cunningham asked where this report would go and Kevin Kelly suggested that the northeastern governors' group (Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG)) will see the report and the governors may attempt to hash out their preferred route. Presently, many of New Hampshire's elected leaders are welcoming toward the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline with its New Hampshire route.

Based on this study and other available information, the group consensus is that the state needs more natural gas supply. John Giger asked about the intensity with which the committee should pursue and report on available pipeline information. John Petropoulos asked about the best way to track the progress and direction that Kinder Morgan is working toward.

John Llodra said that people who are most interested in pipeline information are getting served that information through other sources. The group agreed. Dennis Eklof said that the positions asserted are becoming redundant.

Dennis Eklof said that he was thinking about the concept of spending money for cleaner power. In his view, there seem to be limited federal government mandates on clean power. Kevin Kelly answered that the current administration's clean air efforts through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) represented a magnitude beyond prior efforts. John Llodra noted that partisan positions are not helpful or warranted on this issue. He cited the Henry Paulsen report called Risky Business that called for a comprehensive approach to our energy needs.

John Llodra asked Kevin Kelly about the GELD power sources so far this winter. 10 Percent of Groton's power this winter was derived from oil and 10 percent was derived from coal. Kevin Kelly said that the retirement of coal was the opportunity for the proposal for more natural gas pipeline supplies.

Focus Team Reports

For the EVALUATE focus team, the group has nothing beyond the above described discussion of the DOER report. Nothing more in particular for the MITIGATE and EDUCATE focus teams.

Committee Meeting Schedule

Future Pipeline Working Group meetings will be held on February 23rd meeting and March 23, 2015. If there is nothing to discuss when the meeting time is near, then John Giger will cancel the meeting.

Spring Town Meeting

Spring Town Meeting. Committee may again provide a brief update on the pipeline proposal as a freestanding presentation.

John Petropoulos asked whether the Synapse report conclusions call for a response from the committee to the Board of Selectmen. Board of Selectmen will be asked whether the committee should marshal the arguments in support of greater natural gas supply as a bridge fuel for Massachusetts. John Petropoulos sees a value to setting aside the distraction of whether more natural gas is needed. John Giger summarized that the question is what the Board of Selectmen would like to communicate on this topic.

Peter Cunningham said that he is concerned that GELD continue to be able to find the power that it needs to keep the lights on. Kevin Kelly spoke to the Town's energy demands, noting that the per household demand is down 1 percent per year for each of the past 8 years, but the growth of additional meters is 1.5% per year. If that decreasing demand trend holds, that shows the success of local energy efficiency initiatives. The committee does not directly endorse the Synapse report conclusions, but a majority at least finds that Synapse pointed the correct direction which is that there is a need for greater natural gas supply. Dennis Eklof asked if

issuing a position on natural gas is a position worth taking if there will be disappointment from some segments of the public. He acknowledges the fact that the Committee's opinion is unlikely to influence the outcome and so tends to conclude that Kinder Morgan should be left to make the argument that will promote its own ends.

2014 Annual Town Report

Should the Committee draft an annual report, then input can be sent to Fran Stanley and then John Giger can serve as the editor of that content.

[Mark Haddad joins the meeting.]

John Giger proposed that the group meet again on January 26th to draft the Annual Report, an idea that met with the group's approval. John Petropoulos clarified with Mark Haddad that the annual report deadline is the end of January. After some discussion, the group agreed that annual report ideas of no more than 100 words can be emailed to Fran Stanley who will route comments to John Petropoulos. John Petropoulos will sift through those ideas and bring a rough draft of the Annual Report to the January 26 meeting.

Kevin Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm. Dennis Eklof seconded and the motion carried 7:0 (Peter Morrison absent and Takashi Tada voting as alternate).

Notes by Fran Stanley.