



## TOWN OF GROTON

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### TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE WORKING GROUP COMMITTEE

#### Members

*Chair* Kevin Kelly, GELD Manager  
*Vice Chair* Peter Morrison, Cons. Comm.  
*Secretary* John Llodra, Citizen at Large  
Peter Cunningham, Selectman  
John Petropoulos, Selectman  
Dennis Eklof, Citizen at Large

#### Advisors

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

Meeting Date: March 23, 2015  
Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street, Groton  
Members: John Petropoulos, Kevin Kelly, John Llodra, Peter Morrison  
Advisor: Takashi Tada  
Handouts: Agenda, draft minutes January 12, 2015, draft minutes February 5, 2015.

Meeting convened at 5:30 pm. Peter Morrison asked the committee to review past draft minutes.

*Kevin Kelly moved to approve the January 12, 2015 draft minutes. John Llodra seconded and motion carried 3:0 (Peter Morrison abstained. Takashi Tada, while serving as an advisor today, stepped up to serve as Conservation Commission representative on January 12, 2015. Takashi Tada also approved the minutes).*

*Kevin Kelly moved to approve the February 5, 2015 draft minutes. John Llodra seconded and motion carried 3:0 (John Llodra abstained).*

#### **Chair**

Peter Morrison stated that the elected chair position of the Committee is vacant due to John Giger's resignation.

*John Petropoulos nominated Kevin Kelly to serve as Chair of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Working Group Committee. John Llodra seconded and motion carried 3:0 (Kevin Kelly abstained).*

Having convened the meeting as Vice Chair, Peter Morrison continued to officiate and run the meeting today. Peter Morrison is forwarding several pipeline related emails to Fran Stanley that he received from Eugene Benson. Fran Stanley continues to scan and distribute FERC correspondence that seems relevant to this Committee's work.

#### **Focus Team Reports**

Peter Morrison called for focus team reports. For the EVALUATE focus team, John Llodra has nothing to report but group asked Kevin Kelly for an update on the GELD experience this winter. Kevin Kelly said that the oil market collapsed which kept GELD's February prices down to \$130 per megawatt when the utility had been wondering whether the price would rise to \$250 per megawatt. However, there is reason to believe that supply is still a problem in the Northeast because Southwest of Pittsburgh, the rest of the country paid \$30 per megawatt. In conclusion, the prices were much better this winter than feared, but still four times worse than the rest of the country.

Kevin Kelly observed that LNG was available to New England this winter and some LNG supply came in this year. The group briefly touched on the importance of Brayton Point as its 1.4 gigawatt production is huge and represents a full 15 percent of New England's load. It is unclear whether the new owners of Brayton Point will keep the plant open and whether its continued operation will be subject to current environmental requirements.

Kevin Kelly cited an article in the Springfield Republican reporting that the utility Berkshire Gas is declining new gas services. A moratorium on accepting new gas services has been set. As explained in the article, Berkshire Gas is concerned that it might not be able to supply natural gas to new service connections. Columbia Gas also announced a moratorium on new services at the end of 2014.

Nothing in particular was reported for the MITIGATE and EDUCATE focus teams.

### **Agenda items or action items for future meetings**

The group agreed to formally request a new nominee from the GDRSD because Groton path goes through high school property. Also, a seventh member to round out the committee roster will help with quorum requirements. Kevin Kelly will be in touch with the GDRSD School Committee.

John Petropoulos suggested that the Committee invite local activist groups. He explained that such outreach could be useful as well as show good faith to ask for those groups' thoughts to be sure that Groton's municipal committee is not missing anything. With the group's approval, John Petropoulos will initiate some overtures to local activist groups.

### **Next Meeting**

The group agreed that so long as the path is away from Groton, the Committee can space out its meetings to bi-monthly frequency. Unclear whether the Town's website entries for the Pipeline (commonly referred to as the Pipeline Page) need much updating at this juncture.

Next meeting: 5:30 pm to 7 pm on Monday, May 18, 2015

*Kevin Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 pm. John Llodra seconded and the motion carried 4:0.*

Notes by Fran Stanley.