Public Comment

Algonquin Pipeline Relocation-25012-Bourne

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via online form

Comment

I am deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of the Cape Cod Canal pipeline. While AGT has framed this project as a simple relocation to accommodate the bridge project, that framing does not reflect the full scope of what is being proposed.

The plan calls for a significant increase in pipeline capacity, approximately 62% larger in cross-sectional area, funded with taxpayer dollars intended for the bridge project itself. This is not merely a relocation; it is an expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, paid for by the public.

At a time when we have more environmental data and a clearer understanding of climate impacts than ever before, it is frankly difficult to understand why we would invest public money to increase our reliance on non-renewable resources. Corporate interests should not be allowed to profit at the expense of the hardworking taxpayers of this Commonwealth and this country.

U.S. gas pipelines leak millions of tons of methane every year, with grave consequences for our climate. Our public investments should be directed toward renewable, reliable, and affordable energy, not toward infrastructure that will increase pollution and, in turn, adverse health impacts for our communities. This project runs counter to the electrification and climate goals of Cape Cod and New England as a whole.

The Cape Cod Commission Act of 1989 requires us to protect our unique natural, coastal, historical, cultural and other values from uncoordinated or inappropriate uses of the region's land and resources. This project would disturb approximately 210 acres of habitat, buffer zones, park lands, and more, a direct conflict with that mandate. Moreover, the Regional Policy Plan that the Commission is reviewing this project against repeatedly contains the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions — a goal this project runs counter to, because it would allow more gas onto the Cape. That is not a peripheral concern; it is central to the very framework under which this review is supposed to take place.

I recognize that relocation of the pipeline is necessary to accommodate the bridge project. However, we need far more transparency and a plan that is genuinely aligned with our environmental commitments. Specifically, I ask that the review process:

Quantify the true expansion potential of this project;

Validate the claims of upstream constraints used to justify it;

Assess and mitigate potential adverse impacts of expanded infrastructure;

Present viable alternative scenarios that ensure uninterrupted gas service while supporting affordability and, critically, advancing decarbonization.

We can do better. We must do better, for Cape Cod, for New England, and for the climate.

Thank you for your consideration.

PDF File submitted: No