



July 10, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Comments on Proposed NESE Project

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The Northeast Gas Association¹ (NGA) wishes to express its support for additional natural gas supplies to meet customer demand on the National Grid system in Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island.

A new natural gas infrastructure project has been proposed by Williams/Transco called "Northeast Supply Enhancement," or NESE. The project will bring additional gas supply to meet business and residential customer needs. The project has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) but was denied an environmental permit in May, without prejudice, by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The project developer has resubmitted the application to the DEC, addressing the issues raised in the permitting process.

Natural gas is a critical part of the state's current and future economic competitiveness, energy security and environmental well-being. Over half the homes in New York State are heated with natural gas, and the New York ISO notes that "the portion of New York's generating capability from natural gas and dual-fuel facilities grew from 47% in 2000 to 59% in 2019." Natural gas, along with renewables and nuclear generation, has enabled New York State to continue to make advances in reducing air pollution over many years. From 1990 to 2016, state energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in New York declined by 22% - thanks in great measure to the retirement of carbon-intensive power plants and the greater role of natural gas. Natural gas remains a key part of sustaining a cleaner energy system in New York and the entire Northeast.

Natural gas also makes energy more affordable for New Yorkers. Increasing natural gas availability for all New Yorkers will increase the economic competitiveness of towns, businesses and residences throughout the State, and support the State in its transition to a less carbon-intensive future.

¹ NGA is a regional trade association that focuses on education and training, technology research and development, operations, planning, and increasing public awareness of natural gas in the Northeast U.S. NGA represents natural gas distribution companies, transmission companies, liquefied natural gas suppliers and associate member companies. Its member companies provide natural gas service to over 13 million customers in 9 states (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT).

Renewable resources are playing an increasingly significant role in New York's energy system under your Administration's leadership. To the extent that variable generation sources such as wind-power and solar are added to the State's electric grid, natural gas remains an important back-up fuel, and one that can help to moderate intermittency and provide needed and reliable system balancing.

Additional interstate pipeline capacity to meet identified customer needs will help to ensure over-all energy system reliability, economic competitiveness, and greater price stability.

NGA hopes that the NESE Project will be viewed favorably by DEC in this new review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Kiley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and 'K'.

Thomas M. Kiley
President & CEO

