

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
8TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS AND
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP

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April 28, 2017

Mr. Thomas Cushing, Permits Chief
MassDEP Southeast Regional Office
20 Riverside Drive
Lakeville, MA 02347

Dear Mr. Cushing:

We write in opposition to the issuance of a permit application for the Proposed Air Quality Plan Approval to Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC's non-Major Comprehensive Plan Application. Approval of this permit would allow for the construction of a natural gas compressor station as a component of the Atlantic Bridge project, located in the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts. We are concerned that the construction of a compressor station in this location would further expose the citizens of Weymouth and the surrounding communities to potential health and safety risks.

The proposed location of this compressor station is a small peninsula bordered by the Fore River Basin, Kings Cove and the densely populated neighborhoods of Quincy and North Weymouth. As you know, the Fore River Basin is a heavily industrialized area that continues to be an environmental concern for residents of Weymouth and surrounding communities. The proposed compressor site is within a half mile of nearly 1,000 homes, 38 schools, a water treatment plant and a public park. Also, an estimated 3,100 children live within a mile of the proposed site, and 13,200 children attend school within three miles of the proposed location.

In a report prepared by consultants to Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC., at least ten carcinogens were identified as emitters of the compressor station thereby adversely impacting the air quality standard of the entire Fore River Basin community.¹

Further, Spectra Energy has encountered problems with the existing pipeline at the proposed compressor site. On January 6, 2017, residents in the area notified the Weymouth Fire

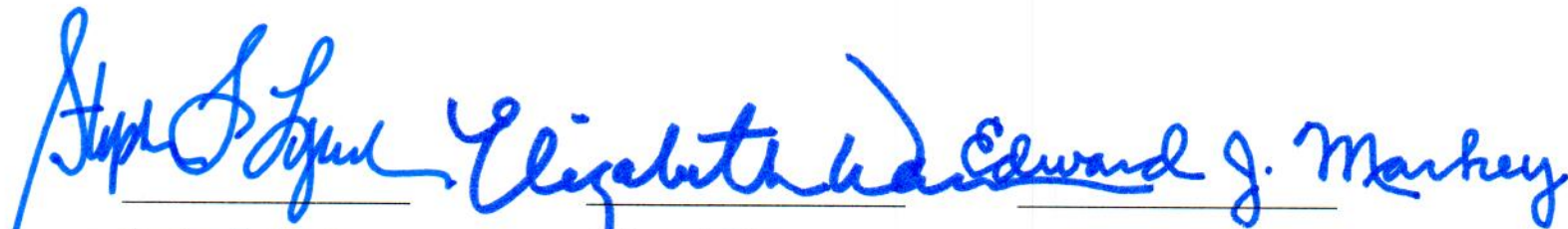
¹ Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC Weymouth Compressor Station | Non-Major Comprehensive Plan Approval Permit Application TRANSMITTAL NO. X266786 (REVISED JANUARY 2017)
Trinity Consultants

Department that there was a strong odor of natural gas in the neighborhood. The Weymouth Fire Department notified Spectra Energy that there was a malfunction in the pipeline and nearly two hours later, Spectra Energy then acted to repair the malfunction. Spectra's lack of a warning alarm or the lack of coordination in alerting the community to a potential gas leak only highlights our concern that the proposal for a compressor station may lead to serious public safety and environmental risks for Weymouth and cities and towns in the surrounding area.

We respectfully urge that you deny this permit application. Allowing this project to move forward will result in further injustice to the families who reside in the immediate and surrounding neighborhoods.

If we may provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Stephen F. Lynch

Member of Congress

Elizabeth Warren

U.S. Senator

Edward J. Markey

U.S. Senator