

Cory Alperstein, Newton, MA.
Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, Docket No. CP16-9-000, Public Health
initiated Shut Down of construction

Dear Secretary Bose,

Daily we are watching as the hypothetical worst case scenario regarding COVID-19 plays out around the world. Those who take strong, evasive action regarding shut down of work projects involving interaction of workers are seeing the best evidence that containment is possible and practical. While the nation shuts down all nonessential activities in light of the COVID-19, the construction at the North Parcel in Weymouth continues unabated. This poses a serious public health situation in the middle of a pandemic. FERC has a responsibility to act.

The construction workers, by the very nature of the work, cannot practice social distancing. Soap and water washing of hands is one of the best practices for curbing transmission of this virus according to the CDC, yet soap and water are unavailable to the workers at the site. Many of the workers are from out of state and have been traveling back and forth between states since December. Slowing of this type of movement is critical in times such as these.

Although public health is not the purview of FERC, safety considerations most certainly are within your scope of practice. At this time, FERC must stop construction on the Weymouth compressor station and on all unnecessary pipeline construction projects across the nation.

On March 16, Mayor Martin Walsh of Boston made the right call for his citizens and shut down all construction within the city limits. Had a pipeline project been underway in Boston that would have been closed as well.

It is our right and responsibility as citizens to demand that FERC take responsibility for the safety of the workers on site, those driving trucks to and from the site and the citizens of Weymouth living near the site and using stores and other facilities also accommodating workers from the site and order Algonquin Gas to immediately suspend construction on the North Weymouth parcel. The same demand is made regarding all other FERC-approved projects across the country at this time of national crisis. It is the only thing to do.

We are asking for FERC to reach out to the CDC and OSHA for guidance and to take the lives of all Americans seriously. We are appalled that you have put us all at risk for far too long.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory Alperstein

CC:

Loren Sweatt, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for
Occupational Safety and Health

John Dreyzehner, MD, Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response for
Disease Control and Prevention

Robert R. Redfield, MD, Director Center for Disease Control and
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Governor Charlie Baker

Senator Patrick O'Connor

Representative James Murphy

Mayor Robert Hedlund, Town of Weymouth

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