



**-Spectra pipeline explosion Friday April 29, 2016, Salem Township PA,
population 4236.**

**The Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station
meets on the second Tuesday of every month at
The Fore River Club
16 Nevada Road, Quincy
Meetings begin at 6:30**

FAQs for FRRACS

1. What is a compressor station?

“Compressor stations house natural gas fired engines, turbines or electric motors that compress or pump natural gas to move it through the system. Natural gas-fired engines and turbines burn a portion of the natural gas in the pipeline and **would emit pollutants.**” (from FERC booklet, What Do I Need to Know?)

2. What is FERC?

“FERC is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which approves the location, construction and operation of interstate pipelines, compressor stations and storage fields involved in moving natural gas across state boundaries.” FERC consists of 5 appointed members who **solely** decide whether to grant a permit for the Spectra Corporation compressor station to be built in Weymouth under the Fore River Bridge. (quote is from FERC booklet)

3. What is methane?

Methane is the “natural gas” that is extracted from the earth and sent through pipelines to be used as a source of energy. The “natural gas” in New England comes from fracking the Marcellus shale (sedimentary rock) in Pennsylvania and transmitted through an extensive nationwide pipeline system.

4. What is fracking?

Hydraulic fracking is the method where methane gas (“natural gas”) is released by drilling deep into earth and pumping millions of gallons of water under pressure to break open shale rock. Thousands of wells in Pennsylvania are extracting methane gas in this way. Toxic chemicals (VOCs, benzene, formaldehyde) are mixed with the fracked gas in the drilling process and are carried with the methane along the pipelines. The water used in the fracking process becomes contaminated causing many people in Pennsylvania with fracking wells on their property not to be able to drink the water.

5. Who is Spectra?

Spectra Energy is a Houston, Texas based private corporation that partners with Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC and Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, LLC. Spectra has made application to FERC requesting their approval for two gas compressors to be sited at the base of the Fore River Bridge. One compressor is for a 7,000 horsepower turbine as part of their Atlantic Bridge Project and the second compressor is 10,900 horsepower turbine as part of their Access Northeast Project. The Spectra application can be viewed on line at (www.spectraenergy/newprojects.com) or examining the hard copy located at the Tufts Main Library in Weymouth.

6. Is there a need for more gas pipelines, compressors, metering stations, etc. ?

No. Our Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey appointed an outside investigative study of the energy needs for New England. The commission

found that New England was able to meet all its energy needs for the next 15 years without building of new pipelines, compressor stations, etc. even during the winter months. “As we make long-term decisions about our energy future, it’s imperative we have the facts,” said AG Healey. This study demonstrates that we do not need increased gas capacity to meet electric reliability needs, and that electric ratepayers shouldn’t foot the bill for additional pipelines. This study demonstrates that a much more cost-effective solution is to embrace energy efficiency and demand response programs that protect ratepayers and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” The **Attorney General’s entire study** can be read here at <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2015/2015-11-18-electric-reliability-study.html>

7. What is FRRACS?

FRRACS (Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station) is a group of concerned citizens who oppose the expansion of the gas infrastructure for health and safety reasons. The group is convinced that the gas generated will be primarily exported and not offer any local benefit. Composed of residents from primarily Weymouth, Braintree and Quincy, they meet regularly at the Fore River Club in Quincy. Information can be found at both their Facebook page FRRACS and their website, www.nocompressor.com. Meetings are open to the public. FRRACS is always looking for new members.

8. What are the health impacts from living near a gas compressor?

There are serious health concerns from living near a gas compressor. Compressors emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can cause respiratory and cardiac problems; among those VOCs are carcinogens benzene and formaldehyde. Children are especially vulnerable to exposure and there are 13,000 children in a three mile radius of the proposed Weymouth compressors. The Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Study has documented what they have found from living near gas compressors.

(<http://www.environmentalhealthproject.org/press-coverage/>) They describe it as a “health crisis.” Dr. Curtis Norgaard, pediatrician at Boston Children’s Hospital has stated that the north Weymouth compressor station is “an unacceptable health risk.”

(<https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/team-news/2015/08/what-health-conditions-are-associated-compressor-station-emissions>)

9. How can I let the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission know I do not want Spectra to get a permit to build more pipelines and gas compressors in my town?

Make your voice heard! Send a comment opposing the Spectra proposals to FERC referencing Docket # **CP16-9-000** (Atlantic Bridge) and Docket # **PF16-1-000** (Access Northeast) at their website www.ferc.gov or call them at 1-866-208-3372 (toll free) or write Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. **You must use the docket numbers.**

10. How does Spectra plan to pay for the new infrastructure?

The public utilities, Eversource and National Grid are heavily invested in Spectra's proposals for gas compressors, pipelines, etc. These utilities have requested that the Massachusetts Department of Public Utility (DPU) agree to a contract that will require all the ratepayers (**i.e. everyone who uses electricity!**) to pay for the Spectra gas corporation expansion. Our Attorney General is against this and has submitted her position at the last DPU hearing on March 10, 2016 citing there is no need for gas expansion. FRRACS is also against having to pay a private corporation for their projects which they will profit.

-compiled by: Margaret Bellafiore, FRRACS member