



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

December 2, 2019

Martin Suuberg, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Commissioner Suuberg,

We feel it necessary to once again raise concerns and seek resolve for a number of issues that have recently arisen regarding Algonquin Transmission, LLC's ("Algonquin") proposal to construct a compressor station in Weymouth.

As you know, the final Release Abatement Measure was recently issued by TRC Companies, Inc. ("TRC"), which subsequently filed notice to the Weymouth Conservation Commission of their intent to begin contamination cleanup on December 3. This announcement, made immediately before a holiday break, leaves virtually no time to close the remaining procedural gaps before digging may begin. The purpose of this letter is to outline these gaps and strongly urge the DEP to make a good faith effort to resolve them before digging commences.

Over the course of TRC's environmental investigation of the site, no soil testing was conducted specifically to identify asbestos. This is a matter of particular concern because, through extensive research, it can be shown that throughout the mid-1900's this site was used to dump furnace bricks known to be composed largely of asbestos. The testing conducted on terracotta bricks is not representative of the waste that exists on the site. Coupled with the lack of soil testing for asbestos, this oversight leaves the dangerously high likelihood of asbestos soil contamination that, if left untested and untouched, could result in disastrous repercussions for both site workers and surrounding residents. We ask that you require further testing for asbestos through soil sampling and additional testing of furnace bricks.

As part of the RAM Plan that was publicly reviewed on October 10, TRC confirmed that the contaminated soil will be removed from the site over the course of 1,100 truckloads weighing 10-15,000 tons. The "nonhazardous" soil, which contains arsenic and likely asbestos, will be transported to one or more sites in Massachusetts, Maine, or New Hampshire, including our own cities of Taunton and Fitchburg. The transportation of soils containing as much as 500% of the state's safe limit of arsenic raises concerns with the thoroughness of containment and management of escaped matter along public highways. To address this health and safety risk, we request that you collaborate with the MassDOT to develop a formal plan to ensure that no soil or dust can escape throughout the entire removal and transportation process.

Although Algonquin has just received Notice to Proceed from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit Notice of Intent has not yet been filed. In addition, storm water plans contained in the Wetlands permit are still under

appeal due to noncompliance and incompleteness at the time the permit was granted. We urge you to delay any construction until all plans have been finalized. To proceed with construction before procedures are formally agreed upon is inappropriately expeditious and disparaging of the communities that have worked tirelessly to protect themselves from the dangers this project poses.

We sincerely hope for the opportunity to work alongside you to advance our communities' best interests. Please consider the requests laid out herein and proceed in a manner favoring the health and safety of the families who reside in the Fore River Basin, and who depend on their Commonwealth to protect them from environmental harm.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. O'Connor
State Senator
Plymouth & Norfolk District



James M. Murphy
State Representative
4th Norfolk District



John F. Keenan
State Senator
Norfolk & Plymouth District



Walter F. Timilty
State Senator
Norfolk, Bristol & Plymouth District



Ronald Mariano
House Majority Leader
3rd Norfolk District



Marc R. Pacheco
State Senator
1st Plymouth & Bristol District



Bruce J. Ayers
State Representative
1st Norfolk District



Joan Meschino
State Representative
3rd Plymouth District



Mark J. Cusack
State Representative
5th Norfolk District



Tackey Chan
State Representative
2nd Norfolk District

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Josh S. Cutler

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