



December 13, 2012

Monkton Selectboard  
Town of Monkton  
P.O. Box 12  
Monkton, Vermont 05469

Dear Monkton Selectboard Members,

Thank you for your letter dated December 11, 2012 to Vermont Gas and the Public Service Board regarding the Addison Natural Gas Project. I have reviewed your letter and also had the opportunity to recently speak with Monkton residents and heard their concerns. Based on yours and their input it appears that it would be beneficial if we worked together to arrange another meeting in Monkton.

I appreciate that the Town is open of the use of alternative routes and not opposed to the project in general. I also note that the Town of Monkton is interested in more Natural Gas Service than was previously discussed. I believe that working together we can find a solution that considers the various interests in this project.

Developing a project like this requires balancing many interest including environmental impacts, archaeological areas, constructability, and landowner issues. As part of the required field work to assess the preliminary alignment in Monkton along the VELCO corridor, the experts identified environmentally and archaeologically sensitive areas and landowner issues that caused us to evaluate other potential alternative alignments.

The decision to place the alignment along the shoulder of the public roads, as shown on 45-day plans submitted, was based on trying to balance these interests, including the reduction in environmental and archaeological concerns and the reduction in the number of private landowner easements. Under the preliminary alignment along the VELCO transmission corridor, 7 miles would have been on privately owned property with the need for 53 private easements; that has been reduced to approximately 2.5 miles and only 18 private property easements. It is also important to note that there were landowners on the preliminary VELCO alignment that did not want to give permission or access to Vermont Gas and did not want their land used for the project.

We would like to request a public meeting with Monkton on January 10th, 2013 during which the reasons for the proposed routing can be explained and concerns and potential alternatives can be discussed. We really want to work with the town to understand the various interests related to environmental, archeological, constructability and land owners to find the best route for this project. I will be in touch to discuss arranging this meeting.

While the petition for a Certificate of Public Good is scheduled to be filed on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, it may be possible to refine the route alignment after our filing.

I appreciate yours and the Town's willingness to continue the dialogue and work to find the best way to balance the various interests in Monkton so that we can expand the economic and environmental benefits to more Vermonters in Addison County.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Wark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Stephen J. Wark