



Town of Monkton

January 17, 2013

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND EMAIL

Vermont Public Service Board
112 State St., Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Missing material from ANGP Filing
[no docket number assigned yet]

Dear Sirs,

This is a request from the Monkton Select Board to find the petition by Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) for a Certificate of Public Good as incomplete and return it to VGS for resubmission for the following reasons:

The petition as filed does not contain any testimony from any Professional Engineers licensed in the state of Vermont. The engineering testimony as filed is from John Heintz, James B. Howe and Jeffrey A. Nelson, none of who are licensed Professional Engineers in Vermont, and there is no testimony from the engineer, James J. Colantonio, no. 5983, who has stamped the Letter of Transmittal. Considering the scope of this project and its potential impact on the lives of thousands of Vermonters, we believe that the ANGP should be executed by project engineers that are registered and be accountable to the licensing board of the State of Vermont, in accordance with 26 V.S.A. Chapter 20, and that any testimony should be presented by Vermont licensed Professional Engineers, and the VT licensed PEs should be available for cross-examination.

The petition as filed does not contain sufficient data on Public Health and Safety as required under §248 (b)(5). The Monkton Select Board has received a letter from engineer Curt Freedman, (who is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Vermont) on the issue of safe setbacks of gas transmission lines from residential structures (see attached). The petition as filed does not have any data or analysis of the impact of an accident or rupture on the surrounding area. The phrases "potential impact area" or "potential impact radius" do not appear in the filing. The Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Division of the US Dept. of Transportation has stipulated "Operators must calculate the potential impact radius for all points along their pipelines and evaluate corresponding impact circles to identify what population is contained within each circle." The petition does not define or calculate PIRs for High Consequence Areas, as stipulated in rule § 192.903 (see attached) even though the proposed pipeline route passes within 500 feet of two schools, (considered HCAs) Allen Brook Elementary School in Williston and Bridge School in Middlebury and within 700 feet of the grounds of Monkton Central School and adjacent to the town of Monkton's recreational facilities, which can also be considered an HCA.

Furthermore, the petition as filed does not include sufficient information analyzing the capacity of a small town volunteer fire department to handle a situation that may arise from a pipeline incident, especially in a town that has no hydrants and relies on fire ponds and pumper trucks to fight fires. (see attached letter from a member of the MVFD). While the petition's emergency planning refers to refers to its "Public Awareness Program," this is no substitution for an actual

emergency response plan, and we would like to see the petitioners provide an actual plausible plan that demonstrates that they truly can safeguard the lives and properties of more than 100 households whom they have placed within the Potential Impact Radius, given that in the event of a rupture, eight miles of natural gas (the distance between valves) at up to 1440 psi will evacuate from the pipeline.

In his response to the Town of Monkton's initial letter of Dec. 11, Steve Wark stated "Developing a project like this requires balancing many interest including environmental impacts, archaeological areas, constructability, and landowner issues." (SJW-4.15.a) The word "safety" is noticeably missing. In the meeting with the town of Monkton on Jan. 10, the constant references by the project engineers that the project "meets code" demonstrates that they do not consider it a problem to site a pipeline so as to place 100+ households within a Potential Impact Radius, as long as it "meets code." We think that this does not meet the criteria that the project has the lowest possible impact.

The petition as filed does not contain sufficient data on Water Purity as required under §248 (b)(5). It does not contain any data or analysis of the impacts of construction on private wells or groundwater, only on public water supplies. In Monkton, the proposed route passes within 100 feet of many private wells. The petition says that there will be blasting along 35% of the proposed route. It does not specify where any of this blasting will be, but given the terrain in Monkton, it is likely that significant amounts of blasting will occur within 100 feet or less of the aforementioned wells, as well as homes, including very old houses with stone foundations. The petition as filed is not complete until it contains more detailed information on the actual blasting locations and the types and quantities of explosives to be used. Given the current proposed route on the public right-of-way, the Town of Monkton requests a separate blasting plan to address these issues.

The petition does not adequately address criteria in §248(b)(1) Orderly Development, in that it does not assess the impact that running an industrial, high-pressure gas transmission line might have on a small town, in the form of reduced property values and therefore reduced tax revenue to the town, the stress for residents of permanently residing within a "potential impact radius," the negative effect it could have on the desirability to live in the town immediately adjacent to such a pipeline, the increased complicating burden on town road maintenance or the effects on future development.

The petition does not contain enough data to satisfy the requirements of §248 (b)(4), Economic Benefit. While the petition addresses the economic benefits to those customers receiving natural gas service, the micro economic analysis of the savings expected for one household does not adequately address the increased costs to the towns that are bypassed and who will see their costs for trucked fuels go up as the most cost-efficient residential customers and large business customers are removed from the trucked fuel system. It also does not address the reduced desirability that may come in living in one of these towns and the ensuing reduction in property values. Since this will be the situation for over 70% of Addison County, an economic analysis that is missing this data is incomplete.

Finally, although extensive analysis of route choices were made very early on in the project, with the addition of International Paper as a customer, the project changed and evolved after the route selection in such significant ways that the original data used to analyze the routes became incorrect and obsolete. Furthermore, a significant last minute change to the route in October 2012 occurred in Monkton when the route was moved from the VELCO power corridor to the public right-of-way, and no analysis of this route was done whatsoever. One criteria for route selection is low-impact on criteria in 248 (b)(5). It is harder to imagine a higher impact on the Town of

Monkton than the current proposed route, and pre-filed testimony “VGS ANGP Nelson PFT [12-20-12]” (p. 42) has already stated that the Route 7 corridor has a lower natural resource impact. We request that the petitioners be required to go back and rework their original alternatives analysis using accurate current data, as required by state statute to ensure that they are still pursuing the lowest cost and lowest impact alternative. We believe that an analysis using corrected data may show that the route selected may no longer be the lowest cost nor lowest impact alternative, given the stated desire of VGS to serve Route 7 in the future, the lack of interest in providing service to smaller towns, and the need with the addition of service to International Paper to send the path of the pipe back west again to get it back to the lake.

We respectfully request that the PSB require Vermont Gas Systems to address these fundamental issues before proceeding with this petition.

Thank you.

Regards,

John Phillips
Chair, Monkton Select Board

CC:
Hinesburg Select Board
New Haven Select Board
Chris Recchia, Commissioner of Public Service

enclosures