



Town of Monkton

December 11, 2012

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND EMAIL

Vermont Public Service Board

112 State St., Drawer 20

Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Vermont Gas Pipeline Proposal

Dear Sirs,

The Monkton Select Board strongly opposes the current route of the VT Gas pipeline through the Town of Monkton. The Monkton Select Board suggests that as a matter of public safety and health that all high pressure gas pipelines through the Town of Monkton maintain a minimum of a 300 foot set back from the gas pipeline Right of Way to any habitable building, a minimum of a 300 foot set back from the gas pipeline Right of Way to any registered well and further that the pipeline be buried a minimum of 48 inches below the current grade. With respect to the depth of burial we are particularly concerned with the pipelines that are buried near or close to water run off ditches maintained by the Town of Monkton. The Monkton Select Board also suggests that disturbance of any current buried electrical service be avoided.

The Town of Monkton is also currently actively engaged with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) on the construction of an amphibian crossing that would be impacted by this route. The project is AOT Monkton STPEH08(4) and is intended to protect a wide variety of animal species, in particular the Blue-Spotted Salamander and Spotted Salamander - both of which are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Given all of these factors, the Monkton Select Board does not support a VT Gas pipeline route that uses the Town of Monkton road Right of Way. The VT Gas had originally proposed a route that followed the VELCO Right of Way which we feel would be better able to meet the public safety and health guidelines mentioned above.



The Town of Monkton also believes that proper provisions should be made for wider distribution of service throughout the Town of Monkton.

Please find attached a copy of a page of a petition signed by 121 citizens given to the Select Board at their last meeting and a copy of the comments made by the Monkton Recreational Committee to the Select Board.

The Town of Monkton would like to have party status with regard to the Act 248 proceeding on the VT Gas pipeline application.

Regards

John Phillips

Chair, Monkton Select Board

CC: Stephen Wark, Vermont Gas

Petition

5/2 ✓

We the undersigned residents of Monkton, Vermont are petitioning the Selectboard to express to Vermont Gas and the Public Service Board our grave concerns regarding the proposed siting of an industrial, high-pressure natural gas pipeline right through the center of our town.

Siting and Safety

We are not opposed to the pipeline, but we feel that this is a completely unsuitable location. We feel that the pipeline should follow the existing VELCO corridor as originally proposed, and as elsewhere on the route. Permits can be acquired from the relevant state agencies to deal with wetlands and cultural site issues.

Pipeline safety experts agree that the best way to ensure public safety as well as safeguard pipeline infrastructure and reduce tragic incidents is to keep people and pipelines separated. This is incompatible with running down a roadside through the middle of a town. The safety of the residents of Monkton should be put first, ahead of other competing concerns in pipeline siting decisions. Elsewhere in Vermont, transmission pipelines past and present are clearly situated to avoid residential areas, and if this pipeline is laid as proposed, many town residents homes will actually be partially in the pipeline RoW. Routine road maintenance will become much more difficult and could pose a risk to workers.

Right-of-Way

In a village with small, non-conforming lots with historic houses close to the road, asking for a 75' construction corridor imposes a proportionally much larger and undue burden on homeowners than a 75' RoW would be crossing a large piece of property. Wells near the road and underground electrical services can be damaged, large trees cut down and property values downgraded, and routine road maintenance may cost taxpayers more.

Therefore, at this time, we would like to put Vermont Gas and the PSB on notice that we do not intend to cooperate with this siting and will oppose this route selection to the maximum degree possible, and we will ask our Selectboard to deny any necessary road permits unless the pipeline is relocated to a more appropriate site.

NAME	ADDRESS	Check if on pipeline route
Chale Hrygala Jr	3554 Monkton Rd Monkton VT 05472	✓
Opp Brown Elisabeth Brown	1976 Monkton Road	✓
Andrew Rollins	1201 Hollow Rd.	
ERIK JOSE	1536 MONKTON RD	✓
Susan Bense	1277 Monkton Rd	✓
Amy W. Moody	175 Monkton Rdc, MONKTON 05469	
LORNE THIBOUT	2257 Monkton Rd P.O. Box 48	✓
Ken Yurkevic	P.O. Box 38 NF 05473	
Tom & Susie	PO Box 63 05469	✓
ANDREW ZENNO	24 Hollow Rd N. Ferrisburgh VT 05473	✓
Ray W.	1209 Hollow Rd Bus. 1 05443	
Kathleen N. Byer	1827 Monkton Road	✓
Bob Hunter	1827 Monkton Rd.	✓
Andrea Petersen	1822 Monkton Rd	✓
ERIC DRESSETTE	1496 Monkton Rd Monkton	✓
Mark Ferguson	1571 Monkton Rd.	✓
John Cook	5302 Monkton Rd	✓
Dea Casey Underwood	11 Hollow Rd.	✓
IAN UNDERWOOD	11 Hollow Rd	✓

December 8, 2012

To the Monkton Selectboard,

We, members of the Monkton Recreation Committee, wish to express to the Monkton Selectboard our opposition to the proposed Vt. Gas Pipeline RoW to be located on Morse Park recreational field, adjacent to Monkton Central School. The following points are of major concern:

- The presence of this pipeline will impede current plans already in place to enhance site features, as well as future development of the recreational facilities
- There is an VHCB easement on the this property which says that Morse Park shall be used for recreational purposes only. In our opinion, a RoW for an industrial pipeline does not qualify as recreational use.
- This is an area where children congregate regularly and we do not feel that it is an appropriate location for an industrial grade high-pressure pipeline. Pipeline safety experts recommend a 500' setback in areas of congregation.
- The construction process would destroy existing walkways and recent plantings of young trees, as well as longtime mature landscaping that serve to screen the walking paths from the road.

We request that the Selectboard ask Vt. Gas move this pipeline back to its original route along the VELCO RoW.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Monkton Recreation Committee Members

Bob Radler

Paul Low

Stephanie Murray

Karla Huizenga

Bob Whalen

Charlie Huizenga