

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 20, 2019

The Honorable Neil Chatterjee  
Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Committee  
88 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Docket No. 16-9-000

Dear Chairman Chatterjee,

We write to express our heightened recent concern over the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) decision to issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity for Enbridge's Atlantic Bridge Project, especially as Enbridge rushes forward to proceed with construction. As part of this project, a subsidiary of Enbridge—the largest pipeline operator in Canada—is attempting to build a 7,700 horsepower natural gas compressor station in Weymouth, Massachusetts. National Grid and Eversource have now publicly stated that they do not need the Weymouth compressor to fulfill customer needs, calling into question whether it is appropriate to still deem its construction necessary. We urge the Commission to reject the recently filed request for a Notice to Proceed on its construction and reopen the decision to issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity for this project.

The certificate that FERC issued on January 25, 2017 found that the project is justified because five local distribution companies, two manufacturing companies, and a municipal utility have contracted for the gas that would flow through the Algonquin and Maritimes & Northeast pipeline systems being modified by the Atlantic Bridge Project. However, one of the project shippers, New England NG Supply Limited, withdrew from the project in September.<sup>1</sup> National Grid has applied to take over the contract and has stated in public testimony that its capacity needs can be met “without the installation of the Weymouth compressor station.”<sup>2</sup> Eversource,

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<sup>1</sup> New England NG Supply Limited and Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, *Joint Petition for Temporary Waiver of Capacity Release Regulations and Related Tariff Provisions and Request for Expedited Action and Shortened Comment Period*, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/IDMWS/common/opennat.asp?fileID=15360446>

<sup>2</sup> Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, *Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of Supply Agreement with Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC*, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (October 25, 2019) <https://fileservice.eea.comacloud.net/FileService.Api/file/FileRoom/11364814> at p. 16

which holds another contract for the Atlantic Bridge Project, has also stated that its “delivery does not depend on the Weymouth compressor.”<sup>3</sup>

There is be a high bar for public convenience and necessity when the proposed facility will also be posing a serious risk of inconvenience and harm to the surrounding public—the needs assessment itself states that if the project may harm the public, “the Commission will evaluate the project by balancing the evidence of public benefits to be achieved against the residual adverse effects.”<sup>4</sup> The construction site in Weymouth is within a half-mile of more than 960 homes and more than 13,200 children go to school within three miles of the site.<sup>5</sup> Weymouth also includes two state-designated environmental justice communities,<sup>6</sup> and community residents already have higher-than-average rates of cancer, asthma, and respiratory diseases.<sup>7</sup>

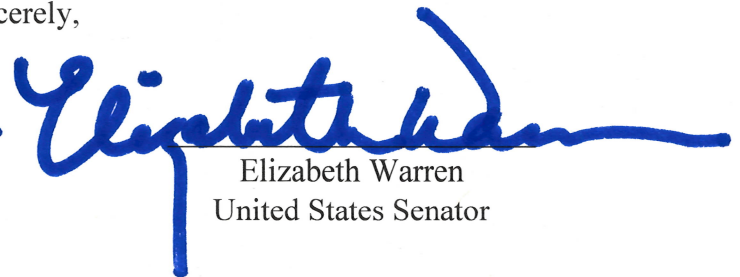
Based on this new information illustrating the lack of need for the Weymouth compressor station, FERC should reject the request for a Notice to Proceed and reexamine its issuance of the certificate of public convenience and necessity. The construction and operation of this facility would cause significant residual adverse effects on the Weymouth community, and we urge FERC to acknowledge in its review of the needs assessment that this facility is unjustifiable and unneeded by natural gas customers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

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<sup>3</sup> Bruce Gellerman, Barbara Moran, Miriam Wasser, *National Grid, Eversource Say They Can Meet Natural Gas Demand Without Weymouth Compressor*, WBUR (November 1, 2019),

<https://www.wbur.org/earthwhile/2019/11/01/weymouth-compressor-demand-national-grid-eversource>

<sup>4</sup> 158 FERC ¶ 61,061 at p. 8

<sup>5</sup> Miriam Wasser, *Confused About the Weymouth Compressor? Here's What You Need to Know*, WBUR (August 4, 2019) <https://www.wbur.org/earthwhile/2019/06/19/proposed-weymouth-gas-compressor-explained>

<sup>6</sup> *Environmental Justice Communities in Massachusetts*, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-communities-in-massachusetts>

<sup>7</sup> Anna Baker, Matt Bivens, Richard Clapp et al., *Health Risks of a Proposed Compressor Station in Weymouth, Massachusetts*, Physicians for Social Responsibility (February 7, 2019)

[https://d279m997dpfwgl.cloudfront.net/wp/2019/02/GB-PSR-Report-on-Health-Risks-of-Proposed-Weymouth-Compressor-Station\\_Feb-7-2019.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1o4TS-aU8OkCU7WeNx6vFFu9e-Qe19AUyIRN6\\_Ff4aYxvO6In0JNUSt4Y](https://d279m997dpfwgl.cloudfront.net/wp/2019/02/GB-PSR-Report-on-Health-Risks-of-Proposed-Weymouth-Compressor-Station_Feb-7-2019.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1o4TS-aU8OkCU7WeNx6vFFu9e-Qe19AUyIRN6_Ff4aYxvO6In0JNUSt4Y)