

Via E-Mail

February 6, 2012

Craig Williams, Chairman
Vernon Twp. Environmental Commission
21 Church Street
P.O. Box 340
Vernon, New Jersey 07462

Re: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC
300 Line Project
December 5, 2011 Commission Meeting

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, I, along with other representatives of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC (“Tennessee”), attended the December 5, 2011 meeting of the Vernon Township Environmental Commission (the “Commission”). The purpose of this letter is to provide a response to the main concerns raised by the Commission during the meeting, namely, (1) the removal of trees from Wawayanda State Park and (2) the presence of an “oily sheen” that was said to be observed in photographs on water in wetland areas.

In connection with its 300 Line Project (the “Project”), Tennessee was required to submit a plan for deforestation and reforestation (“Reforestation Plan”) on state lands crossed by the Project. The state lands included the Hamburg Mountain Wildlife management Area, Wawayanda State Park, Bearfort Mountain Natural Area, and Long Pond Ironworks State Park. Specifically, Tennessee prepared a Reforestation Plan (dated June 2010) in conjunction with and based upon input, guidance and direction from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (the “NJDEP”), Division of Parks and Forestry, the New Jersey Forest Service and following the No Net Loss Reforestation Program Guidelines (January 2002; revised September 2007). Also, pursuant to the No Net Loss Reforestation Act (the “Act”), a public hearing was held on July 29, 2010 at the Senior Center in Vernon Township giving the public the opportunity to provide both written and oral comments on Tennessee’s Reforestation Plan. A copy of that portion of the Reforestation Plan applicable to Wawayanda State Park is attached for your reference (the entire Reforestation Plan plus exhibits is nearly 300 pages).

With regard to Waywayanda State Park, a total of 20.17 acres was deforested, including 16.1 acres for temporary workspace and additional temporary workspace, and 4.07 acres for new permanent right-of-way. The NJDEP was compensated for the removal of trees from Waywayanda State Park through on and off-site reforestation as well as monetary compensation for the area within the permanent right-of-way that will

be maintained in a scrub-shrub state. A total of 16.1 acres will be reforested on-site while 4.26 acres will be reforested off-site. According to Tennessee's contractor, all trees that were removed were taken and used for mulch. Unfortunately, because tree removal and replacement are regulated on a per acre basis and not on a per tree basis, Tennessee is unable to say exactly how many trees were removed. However, Tennessee expects to plant a total of 24,224 individual trees and 2,183 individual shrubs throughout Waywayanda State Park. The breakdown of species, quantity and location by milepost is set forth in more detail in the Reforestation Plan. The replanting will take place between March 1 and June 30 of this year. Tennessee will be monitoring restoration efforts for three years following construction, or until it receives a notice of compliance from the NJDEP.

With regard to the presence of the "oily sheen" that was said to be observed on the construction right-of-way, Tennessee arranged for Agra Environmental and Laboratory Services to take a number of samplings in order to determine the cause. A copy of the test results is enclosed. The soil samples all tested for total petroleum hydrocarbons ("TPH") levels less than the regulated level of 1000 mg/kg. With respect to volatile organic compounds ("VOCS"), the levels of a VOC, toluene, at the sample locations ranged from undetected to less than one third the NJDEP's maximum contaminant level of 1,000 µg/l. All the samples did show a presence of iron-related bacteria. This type of bacteria is naturally-occurring and can be typical or expected in these soils. Iron-related bacteria in standing water can give off an oil-like sheen and sometimes can be mistaken for the presence of a petroleum product.

Tennessee strives to respond to concerns of our project stakeholders in a collaborative and productive way. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Commission's meeting and hope that this letter and enclosure address the matters raised on December 5, 2011. I ask that in the future Tennessee be provided notice of any specific concerns that the Commission would like us to address ahead of any meeting involving Tennessee or its activities.

Very truly yours,

/s/ James D. Johnston

Encls.