

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2021

Commissioners
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Docket Number CP17-101-000

Dear Chairman Richard Glick, Commissioner Neil Chatterjee, Commissioner James Danly, Commissioner Allison Clements, and Commissioner Mark Christie:

As members of the New York State congressional delegation, we write to express our concern over Transco's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) project extension request for the Williams Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Pipeline. We understand that Transco has requested this FERC federal permit extension in order to reapply in New York and New Jersey to build the pipeline, despite being denied by both jurisdictions. We have been outspoken on this matter due to the public health and environmental risks that the NESE would bring to our region, particularly in our environmental justice communities still recovering from Superstorm Sandy.^{1, 2}

We strongly support the full and fair consideration of public comments regarding Transco's request for a two-year extension to construct and place into service the Williams Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Pipeline.

While FERC approved the NESE on May 3, 2019, FERC insisted that it did not need to consider whether the NESE will increase greenhouse gas admissions because it lacks a "widely accepted standard" for doing so. Commissioner Richard Glick, in his dissent, wrote that refusing to consider greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) while declaring a pipeline to be environmentally safe "fails to give climate change the serious consideration it deserves and that the law demands." We agreed with this assessment and since then, FERC ruled that it was appropriate to consider downstream GHG emissions when evaluating the environmental impacts of a pipeline project.³ We believe this standard should be applied to the Williams NESE pipeline if it is not built by the original construction deadline.

Furthermore, we believe that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) May 2020 denial of the Williams NESE pipeline should be a prudent matter of your deliberation of Transco's request. It is important to note that in their final decision, the DEC

¹ Nadler, J. (2019, May 15). Nadler Leads NYC Members in Opposing Northeast Supply Enhancement Project. Retrieved from The Honorable Jerry Nadler, 10th Congressional District of New York: <https://nadler.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=393922>

² Velázquez, N.M. (2020, February 18). Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez, Letter on National Grid's 2019 Rate Case. Retrieved from The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez, 7th Congressional District of New York: [https://velazquez.house.gov/sites/velazquez.house.gov/files/2019 NG Rate Case.pdf](https://velazquez.house.gov/sites/velazquez.house.gov/files/2019%20NG%20Rate%20Case.pdf)

³ Commission, U. S. (2020, June 18). Commissioner Glick Dissent. Retrieved from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC): <https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/C-6-Glick.pdf>

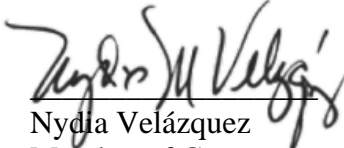
expressed that the Williams NESE pipeline construction would greatly threaten the health and safety of New York Harbor, that the project is inconsistent with state climate law, and that the project is needless when renewable alternatives are taken into account.

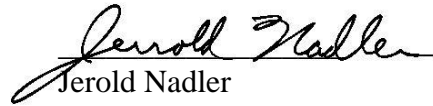
The DEC's determination also noted the massive public disapproval to the Williams NESE Pipeline with over 16,000 public comments submitted concerning the state water quality permit. Thousands of additional comments were submitted in the Public Service Commission (PSC) Case No. 19-G-0678, and hundreds of community members spoke at the PSC, DEC and FERC public hearings raising serious concerns regarding the Williams NESE Pipeline.

We support FERC's attentiveness to our constituent's opinions pertaining to this matter, many who continue to speak out about surviving Superstorm Sandy and fear the climate impacts this project would have on our frontline communities.

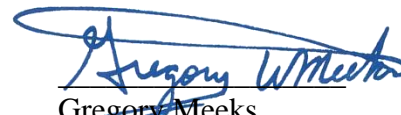
Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,

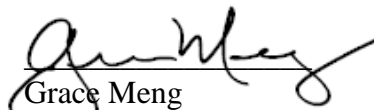

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