

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF THE CASE YOU ARE FILING WITH THE **APPELLATE DIVISION**.  
REVIEW ALL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR ACCURACY PRIOR TO HITTING THE **SUBMIT** BUTTON  
ON THE NEXT PAGE.

**FILING ID #** 1782339 **TRIAL COURT DOCKET #** 1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001  
**APPELLATE #** **TRIAL COURT COUNTY**  
**CASE TITLE** IN THE MATTER OF 1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001 TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE  
LINE COMPANY, UTILITY LICENSE CHEESEQUAKE CREEK TRIBUTARY &  
RARITAN BAY, SAYREVILLE BORO, MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
**CASE TYPE** STATE AGENCY **DISPOSITION DATE** 06/12/2026  
**CATEGORY**  
**TRIAL COURT JUDGE**

## PARTY/ATTORNEY

| PARTY NAME                                                    | PARTY<br>ROLE | PARTY<br>DESIGNATION | FIRM NAME - ATTORNEY<br>NAME /<br>ATTORNEY ROLE                                   | ADDRESS                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CENTRAL JERSEY SAFE<br>ENERGY COALITION                       | OTHER         | APPELLANT            | EASTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER -<br>DANIEL A GREENHOUSE (ATTORNEY OF<br>RECORD) | ONE GATEWAY CENTER, SUITE 2600<br>NEWARK, NJ 07102<br>973-424-1166<br>dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org                                                         |
| ENVIRONMENTAL<br>PROTECTION                                   | OTHER         | RESPONDENT           | ATTORNEY GENERAL LAW - SOOKIE BAE-PARK<br>(ATTORNEY OF RECORD)                    | 25 MARKET ST, PO BOX 112 TRENTON, NJ<br>08625-0112<br>609-984-3900<br>dol.appeals@law.njoag.gov<br>(DOLAPPEALS@LPS.STATE.NJ.US;<br>DOLAPPEALS@LPS.STATE.NJ.US)     |
| FOOD & WATER WATCH                                            | OTHER         | APPELLANT            | EASTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER -<br>DANIEL A GREENHOUSE (ATTORNEY OF<br>RECORD) | ONE GATEWAY CENTER, SUITE 2600<br>NEWARK, NJ 07102<br>973-424-1166<br>dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org                                                         |
| NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF<br>CONSERVATION VOTERS<br>EDUCATION FUND | OTHER         | APPELLANT            | EASTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER -<br>DANIEL A GREENHOUSE (ATTORNEY OF<br>RECORD) | ONE GATEWAY CENTER, SUITE 2600<br>NEWARK, NJ 07102<br>973-424-1166<br>dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org                                                         |
| NY/NJ BAYKEEPER                                               | OTHER         | APPELLANT            | EASTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER -<br>DANIEL A GREENHOUSE (ATTORNEY OF<br>RECORD) | ONE GATEWAY CENTER, SUITE 2600<br>NEWARK, NJ 07102<br>973-424-1166<br>dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org                                                         |
| PRINCETON MANOR<br>HOMEOWNERS<br>ASSOCIATION                  | OTHER         | APPELLANT            | EASTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER -<br>DANIEL A GREENHOUSE (ATTORNEY OF<br>RECORD) | ONE GATEWAY CENTER, SUITE 2600<br>NEWARK, NJ 07102<br>973-424-1166<br>dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org                                                         |
| TIDELANDS RESOURCE<br>COUNCIL                                 | OTHER         | RESPONDENT           | ATTORNEY GENERAL LAW - NICOLAS G<br>SEMINOFF (ATTORNEY OF RECORD)                 | 25 MARKET ST, PO BOX 112 TRENTON, NJ<br>08625-0112<br>609-984-3900<br>nicolas.seminoff@law.njoag.gov                                                               |
| TRANSCONTINENTAL<br>GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY                     | OTHER         | RESPONDENT           | RUTTER & ROY, LLP - RICHARD G SCOTT<br>(ATTORNEY OF RECORD)                       | 2052 ROUTE 35, SUITE 103, RIVERS EDGE<br>PROFESSIONAL BUILDING WALL, NJ 07719<br>732-462-1990<br>rscott@rutterroy.com; croy@rutterroy.com;<br>fmiele@rutterroy.com |

## DOCUMENTS

| DOCUMENT /<br>FILE NAME                                | FILING<br>PARTY                               | FIRM NAME /<br>ATTORNEY<br>ATTENTION                            | CATEGORY /<br>DOCUMENT TYPE                                           | SOURCE              | DATE<br>DOCUMENT<br>CREATED | STATUS             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| NOTICE OF APPEAL                                       | CENTRAL<br>JERSEY SAFE<br>ENERGY<br>COALITION | EASTERN<br>ENVIRONMENTAL LAW<br>CENTER - DANIEL A<br>GREENHOUSE | APPELLATE DOCUMENTS - NOTICE<br>OF APPEAL                             | SYSTEM<br>GENERATED | 07/27/2026                  | READY TO<br>SUBMIT |
| CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT                             | CENTRAL<br>JERSEY SAFE<br>ENERGY<br>COALITION | EASTERN<br>ENVIRONMENTAL LAW<br>CENTER - DANIEL A<br>GREENHOUSE | APPELLATE DOCUMENTS - CASE<br>INFO STATEMENT                          | SYSTEM<br>GENERATED | 07/27/2026                  | READY TO<br>SUBMIT |
| TRIAL COURT<br>ORDER/JUDGMENT/DECISION<br>(06/12/2026) | CENTRAL<br>JERSEY SAFE<br>ENERGY<br>COALITION | EASTERN<br>ENVIRONMENTAL LAW<br>CENTER - DANIEL A<br>GREENHOUSE | APPELLATE DOCUMENTS - TRIAL<br>COURT<br>ORDER/JUDGMENT/DECISION       | UPLOAD              | 07/27/2026                  | READY TO<br>SUBMIT |
| TRIAL COURT OPINION<br>(05/06/2026)                    | CENTRAL<br>JERSEY SAFE<br>ENERGY<br>COALITION | EASTERN<br>ENVIRONMENTAL LAW<br>CENTER - DANIEL A<br>GREENHOUSE | APPELLATE DOCUMENTS - TRIAL<br>COURT OPINION                          | UPLOAD              | 07/27/2026                  | READY TO<br>SUBMIT |
| TRIAL COURT<br>ORDER/JUDGMENT/DECISION<br>(07/10/2026) | CENTRAL<br>JERSEY SAFE<br>ENERGY<br>COALITION | EASTERN<br>ENVIRONMENTAL LAW<br>CENTER - DANIEL A<br>GREENHOUSE | APPELLATE DOCUMENTS - TRIAL<br>COURT<br>ORDER/JUDGMENT/DECISION       | UPLOAD              | 07/27/2026                  | READY TO<br>SUBMIT |
| CERTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL<br>IDENTIFIERS           | CENTRAL<br>JERSEY SAFE<br>ENERGY<br>COALITION | EASTERN<br>ENVIRONMENTAL LAW<br>CENTER - DANIEL A<br>GREENHOUSE | APPELLATE DOCUMENTS -<br>CERTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL<br>IDENTIFIERS | SYSTEM<br>GENERATED | 07/27/2026                  | READY TO<br>SUBMIT |
| PROOF OF SERVICE                                       | CENTRAL<br>JERSEY SAFE<br>ENERGY<br>COALITION | EASTERN<br>ENVIRONMENTAL LAW<br>CENTER - DANIEL A<br>GREENHOUSE | APPELLATE DOCUMENTS - PROOF<br>OF SERVICE                             | SYSTEM<br>GENERATED | 07/27/2026                  | READY TO<br>SUBMIT |

## FEES AND PAYMENTS

| Fee Type   | Fee Amount | Fee Status  | Fee Paid | Payment Date | Payment Type | Amount Due |
|------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| FILING FEE | \$250.00   | FEE PENDING | \$0.00   |              | JACS         | \$250.00   |
|            | \$250.00   |             | \$0.00   |              |              | \$250.00   |

**RELATED APPEALS**

| <b>CASE<br/>TYPE</b> | <b>APPELLATE #</b> | <b>TRIAL COURT/<br/>AGENCY<br/>DOCKET #</b>                 | <b>CASE TITLE</b>                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>DISPOSITION<br/>DATE</b> | <b>STATUS</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| APPELLATE            | A-004004-25        | 1219-25-0004.1<br>TDI250001<br>TRANSCONTINENTAL<br>GAS PIPE | IN THE MATTER OF 1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001<br>TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY, UTILITY<br>LICENSE, CHEESEQUAKE CREEK TRIBUTARY & RARITAN<br>BAY, SAYREVILLE BORO, MIDDLESEX COUNTY | 06/12/2026                  | OPEN          |

## Certification that Submission Contains No Confidential Information or Confidential Personal Identifiers

This form shall be completed by any party who files a document in a public court matter in the Supreme Court or in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court.

**1. Confidential information / confidential personal identifiers (must select one):**

I certify that I have reviewed Rules 1:38-3, 1:38-5, and 1:38-7 and:

- ☒ This document does not contain any confidential information or any confidential personal identifiers; **OR**
- ☐ This document; previously contained confidential information or confidential personal identifiers, which have been redacted (meaning removed or made anonymous by using fictitious first names or initials, where applicable). The cover of the redacted version of the document contains the word "REDACTED." I acknowledge that a non-redacted version must be filed simultaneously with the redacted version in matters where the confidential information is necessary to the disposition of the matter: **OR**
- ☐ This document contains confidential information, but redaction is not required because the document is excluded from public access pursuant to court order, Rule, statute, or other authority. If applicable, skip paragraphs 2 and 3.

**2. Return and resubmission:**

I certify that if any confidential information is discovered in this submission and brought to the court's attention, the court will return the document to me, and I will be responsible to redact or remove the confidential information before resubmission. I understand the court could impose sanctions, including suppression of the brief, dismissal in extraordinary cases, and other measures for a failure to accurately make this certification or for the discovery of confidential information in a document that has been filed.

**3. Briefs posted online:**

I understand that the presence of confidential information or confidential personal identifiers in a document that has been posted on the Judiciary's public website will be grounds for the removal of such online posting, pending correction by the filing party, on an expedited timeline. The court in its discretion could postpone further proceedings pending the resubmission of the document.

**This certification pertains to the following documents included in this filing:**

**NOTICE OF APPEAL, TRIAL COURT ORDER/JUDGMENT/DECISION (06/12/2026), TRIAL COURT ORDER/JUDGMENT/DECISION (07/10/2026), TRIAL COURT OPINION (05/06/2026), CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT**

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

07/27/2026

Date

S/ DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.

Signature of Attorney or Pro Se Litigant





New Jersey Judiciary  
Superior Court - Appellate Division  
**Notice of Appeal**

TITLE IN FULL (AS CAPTIONED BELOW)

**IN THE MATTER OF 1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001  
TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY,  
UTILITY LICENSE CHEESEQUAKE CREEK  
TRIBUTARY & RARITAN BAY, SAYREVILLE BORO,  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

ATTORNEY / LAW FIRM / PRO SE LITIGANT

NAME

**DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**

STREET ADDRESS

**ONE GATEWAY CENTER SUITE 2600**

CITY

**NEWARK**

STATE

**NJ**

ZIP

**07102**

PHONE NUMBER

**973-424-1166**

EMAIL ADDRESS

**dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**

ON APPEAL FROM

TRIAL COURT JUDGE

TRIAL COURT OR STATE AGENCY

TRIAL COURT OR AGENCY NUMBER

**1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001**

**CENTRAL JERSEY SAFE ENERGY COALITION**

Notice is hereby given that (\*) appeals to the Appellate  
Division from a ☐ Judgment or ☐ Order entered on \_\_\_\_\_ in the ☐ Civil  
☐ Criminal or ☐ Family Part of the Superior Court ☐ Tax Court or from a  
☒ State Agency decision entered on 06/12/2026

If not appealing the entire judgment, order or agency decision, specify what parts or paragraphs are being  
appealed.

For criminal, quasi-criminal and juvenile actions only:

Give a concise statement of the offense and the judgment including date entered and any sentence or  
disposition imposed:

This appeal is from a ☐ conviction ☐ post judgment motion ☐ post-conviction relief ☐ pre-trial detention  
If post-conviction relief, is it the ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_  
specify

Is defendant incarcerated? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was bail granted or the sentence or disposition stayed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If in custody, name the place of confinement:

Defendant was represented below by:

☐ Public Defender ☐ self ☐ private counsel \_\_\_\_\_

specify

Notice of appeal and attached case information statement have been served where applicable on the following:

|                                                                                     | Name                            | Date of Service   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Trial Court Judge                                                                   |                                 |                   |
| Trial Court Division Manager                                                        |                                 |                   |
| Tax Court Administrator                                                             |                                 |                   |
| State Agency                                                                        | <b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</b> | <b>07/27/2026</b> |
| Attorney General or Attorney for other Governmental body pursuant to R. 2:5-1(b)(4) |                                 | <b>07/27/2026</b> |

Other parties in this action:

| Name and Designation                          | Attorney Name, Address and Telephone No.                                                                                                                                                                                            | Date of Service   |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</b>               | <b>SOOKIE BAE-PARK, Esq.<br/>ATTORNEY GENERAL LAW<br/>25 MARKET ST<br/>PO BOX 112<br/>TRENTON NJ 08625-0112<br/>609-984-3900<br/>dol.appeals@law.njoag.gov<br/>(DOLAPPEALS@LPS.STATE.NJ.US;<br/>DOLAPPEALS@LPS.STATE.NJ.US)</b>     | <b>07/27/2026</b> |
| <b>TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY</b> | <b>RICHARD G SCOTT, Esq.<br/>RUTTER &amp; ROY, LLP<br/>2052 ROUTE 35, SUITE 103<br/>RIVERS EDGE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING<br/>WALL NJ 07719<br/>732-462-1990<br/>rscott@rutterroy.com; croy@rutterroy.com;<br/>fmiele@rutterroy.com</b> | <b>07/27/2026</b> |
| <b>TIDELANDS RESOURCE COUNCIL</b>             | <b>NICOLAS G SEMINOFF, Esq.<br/>ATTORNEY GENERAL LAW<br/>25 MARKET ST<br/>PO BOX 112<br/>TRENTON NJ 08625-0112<br/>609-984-3900<br/>nicolas.seminoff@law.njoag.gov</b>                                                              | <b>07/27/2026</b> |

Attached transcript request form has been served where applicable on the following:

|                        | Name | Date of Service |
|------------------------|------|-----------------|
| Transcript Office      |      |                 |
| Clerk of the Tax Court |      |                 |

State Agency

Exempt from submitting the transcript request form due to the following:

- ☒ The transcripts were ordered in related appeal.
- ☐ Transcript in possession of attorney or pro se litigant (four copies of the transcript must be submitted along with an electronic copy).

List the date(s) of the trial or hearing:

- ☐ Motion for abbreviation of transcript filed with the court or agency below. Attach copy.
- ☐ Motion for transcripts at public expense filed with the court below. Attach copy.

I certify that the foregoing statements are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I also certify that, unless exempt, the filing fee required by *N.J.S.A. 22A:2* has been paid.

**07/27/2026**

Date

**s/ DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**

Signature of Attorney or Pro Se Litigant

BAR ID #

**016102005**

EMAIL ADDRESS

**dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**



New Jersey Judiciary  
Superior Court - Appellate Division  
Notice of Appeal

Additional appellants continued below

**Appellant's Attorney** Email Address: **dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**

☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☒ Other (Specify) **INTERVENOR**

Name

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Client

**FOOD & WATER WATCH**

Street Address

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City

**NEWARK**

State

**NJ**

Zip

**07102**

Telephone Number

**973-424-1166**

**Appellant's Attorney** Email Address: **dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**

☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☒ Other (Specify) **INTERVENOR**

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**NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF  
CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION  
FUND**

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Telephone Number

**973-424-1166**

**Appellant's Attorney** Email Address: **dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**

☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☒ Other (Specify) **INTERVENOR**

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State

**NJ**

Zip

**07102**

Telephone Number

**973-424-1166**

**Appellant's Attorney** Email Address: **dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**

☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☒ Other (Specify) **INTERVENOR**

Name

**DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**

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**PRINCETON MANOR HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION**

Street Address

**ONE GATEWAY CENTER SUITE 2600**

City

**NEWARK**

State

**NJ**

Zip

**07102**

Telephone Number

**973-424-1166**

Additional respondents continued below

**Respondent's Attorney** Email Address: **rscott@rutterroy.com; croy@rutterroy.com; fmiele@rutterroy.com**

☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☒ Other (Specify) **PETITIONER**

Name

**RICHARD G SCOTT, Esq.**

Client

**TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE  
COMPANY**

Street Address

**2052 ROUTE 35, SUITE 103 RIVERS EDGE  
PROFESSIONAL BUILDING**

City

**WALL**

State

**NJ**

Zip

**07719**

Telephone Number

**732-462-1990**

**Respondent's Attorney** Email Address: **nicolas.seminoff@law.njoag.gov**

☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☒ Other (Specify) **STATE AGENCY**

Name

**NICOLAS G SEMINOFF, Esq.**

Client

**TIDELANDS RESOURCE COUNCIL**

Street Address

**25 MARKET ST PO BOX 112**

City

**TRENTON**

State

**NJ**

Zip

**08625-0112**

Telephone Number

**609-984-3900**

Additional parties continued below

Appellant's attorney email address continued below

**PARTY NAME: FOOD & WATER WATCH ATTORNEY NAME: DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**

**dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**

**PARTY NAME: NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND ATTORNEY**

**NAME: DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**

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**PARTY NAME: NY/NJ BAYKEEPER ATTORNEY NAME: DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**

**dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**

**PARTY NAME: PRINCETON MANOR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION ATTORNEY NAME: DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**

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**PARTY NAME: TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY ATTORNEY NAME: RICHARD G SCOTT, Esq.**

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**PARTY NAME: TIDELANDS RESOURCE COUNCIL ATTORNEY NAME: NICOLAS G SEMINOFF, Esq.**

**nicolas.seminoff@law.njoag.gov**

Additional Party's attorney email address continued below



# State of New Jersey

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OF WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION BUREAU OF TIDELANDS MANAGEMENT

P.O. Box 420, Mail Code 501-02B  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420  
Tel. (609) 292-2573 • Fax (609) 292-8115  
[dep.nj.gov/vlm/tidelands](http://dep.nj.gov/vlm/tidelands)

**MIKIE SHERRILL**  
*Governor*

**DALE G.  
CALDWELL**  
*Lt. Governor*

**EDWARD POTOSNAK III**  
*Acting Commissioner*

TO: Henry Gajda, Chief of Staff, NJDEP  
Jennifer L. Moriarty, Assistant Commissioner, Watershed & Land Management

FROM: Randy D. Bearce, Manager, Bureau of Tidelands Management

DATE: 6/3/2026

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Tidelands Resource Council Meeting on May 6, 2026.

As provided in the Administrative Order 2026-01 dated January 23, 2026, continuing all existing Administrative Orders and designations, as Assistant Commissioner Jennifer Moriarty is delegated authority to approve and sign riparian grants, riparian leases, and the minutes of the Council.

As provided in a Memorandum dated February 19, 2026, the Commissioner delegated all authority concerning the Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (Transco NESE) to Deputy Commissioner Joseph Seebode, and in a Memorandum dated March 31, 2026, Deputy Commissioner Seebode delegated his authority concerning Transco NESE to Chief of Staff Henry Gajda.

Attached for review and approval are the minutes of the Tidelands Resource Council Meeting of May 6, 2026 that were approved by the Council at the June 3, 2026 meeting. We recommend Chief of Staff Gajda's approval of the minutes and consequently approval of all actions taken by the Council, except that we recommend Assistant Commissioner Moriarty's approval of the minutes of the Council as to the approval of the April 23, 2026 TRC meeting minutes (approved at the May 6, 2026 meeting and not pertaining to Transco NESE).

If you agree, you may sign the last page of these minutes and have them returned to the Bureau of Tidelands Management.

## **MINUTES**

### **TIDELANDS RESOURCE COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEETING OF MAY 6, 2026**

#### **COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT<sup>1</sup> :**

Mary Pat Robbie, Chairperson  
Thomas Voltaggio, Vice Chairperson  
Zoe Baldwin  
Stuart Challoner<sup>2</sup>  
Edward (Ned) Gaine  
Joseph Grabas  
Andrew Raichle

#### **ABSENT:**

Ed (Skip) Harrison  
Lori Hohenleitner  
Martha Maxwell-Doyle  
Anjuli Ramos

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Nicolas Seminoff, DAG to Council  
Johnathan Allen, DAG to Council

#### **Bureau of Tidelands Management and other DEP staff:**

Randy Bearce, Manager  
Henry Gajda, Chief of Staff  
Robert Schuster, Director  
Peter DeMeo, Assistant Director  
Melissa Miller, Martin Mosen, Kelly DeMilio, Kristina Kravit, Jennifer Desmond, Anthony Deon, Danielle Fischer, Emma Cusano, Danielle Ronquillo, Nishika D'Souza, Eva Tillett, Jaelyn Bernstein, Marila Xie, Natasha Boyd, Christina Albizati, Mike Cuccia, Matthew Lashendock, Bhavya Yampati, Gloria Toleno, Jasmine Flanders, Nicola Fiorey.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: There are currently only 11 members on the Council; therefore, a total of at least 6 votes is required for a quorum and approval on an action. There were enough members and votes for a quorum for this meeting.

<sup>2</sup> Arrived late, was not present and did not vote for approval of the April 23, 2026 minutes, but was present for the full Transco matter.



**Members of the public:**

Dan Greenhouse, Zachary Klein, Ken Dolsky, Cindy Zipf, Diane Heyer, Susan Mikaitis, Elizabeth Roedell, Christopher LaMonica, Andrew Provence, Evan Leong, Richard Scott, Barbara Cuthbert, Madison Wurst, Kevin Corcoran, Christine Roy, Rita (guest), Jessie Lindsay, Rhianna Bozzi, Kin Gee, Jane Fasulo, Taylor McFarland, Paige Pinckney, Steve Machalaba, Jill Aquino, Patty Cronheim, JK Canepa, Erika Attanasio, Suzanne Golas, Conor Lyman, Suzanne (Guest), Tom Irving, Nancy Griffeth, Amie Kalac, Pablo Salazar, Sabeen Masih, Greg Remaud, Jasmine Metellus, Charlie Kratovil, Mona Zhang, James Stuart, Larry Shapiro, Linda Powell, Andrea (Guest), Celeste (Guest), Sophie Nieto-Munoz, Milena Bimpong, Stephen Miller, Donna Lisi, Nidhi Kulkarni, Richard Jones, David Temple, Matt Hartman, Kaila SBU, Jane Califf, Alissa Pecora, Virginia Wardell, Facundo Moreno, Allison McLeod, Linda Garfinkel, Dennis Hart, Edyta Salata, Francesca Ciliberti Ayres, Carolyn Jones, Steven MacLeod, Paula Rogovin, Lois (Guest), Nicholas Stalneck, Joan Nemeth, Don Greenberg, Michael Atchie, Stephen Kellogg, Linda Stehlik, Tim Powell, Sue (Guest), Cheryl (Guest), Tom Koster, Kristine Gunningham, Mike (Guest), Kirk Frost, Jay Weisbond, Donald Wolfe, Michelle (Guest), Steve (Guest), JT (Guest), Suzy Brindley, Andrea Rojas, Harsh Bhargava, Steven Mitchell, Akhtab Mujahid, Jesse Sutherland, Anthony Antonucci, Kathryn Fisher, Marina Romo, Frank Ogrodowski, Kip Cherry, Javier Perez, Joseph Smugeresky, Kirsty Cronin, John (Guest), Neil (Guest), David Usechak, Lilly (Guest), Capt. Paul Eidman, Teresa Anderson, Kate Wister, Ray Cantor, Kyle (Guest), Terrence Thompson, William (Guest), Matthew Smith, Scarlett Knight, Lucia Middleton, Matt Garrido, Ruth Darlington, Alexandra Horn, Blake Clements, M. Little, Anthony (Guest), Nicole (Guest), Joseph Dean, Susan Nowelsky, Anshul Gupta, Patrick McClusky, Audrey (Guest), Stephanie (Guest), Sharon (Guest), Andy Yesaitis, Mitchell Heisler, Eric L., Dan Merz, Dana DiFilippo, Eileen Eisenberg, Brian Toro, JJ (Guest), Jackie Greger, Maegan Kuhlmann, Jordan Viana, David Pringle, Kari Martin, Anthony Campisi, Trey Barrow, David (Guest), S. Knight, E. (Guest), K. (Guest), Rita (Guest), Knight (Guest), Randy (Guest), 2 Guests on the Website, and 38 Unidentified Call-ins.

**APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 23, 2026 TIDELANDS RESOURCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (May 6, calendar):**

A motion by Councilmember Voltaggio, seconded by Councilmember Gaine, passed by a vote of 6-0 to approve the April 23, 2026 minutes. Councilmember Challoner was not present for this vote.





**FILE:**

**1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001**

**APPLICANT:** Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company  
**PURPOSE OF APPLICATION:** Utility License  
**May 6, 2026 Calendar**

**PROPERTY LOCATION:** WATERWAY: Cheesequake Creek Tributary & Raritan Bay

**LOT(S):** N/A **BLOCK(S):** N/A  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Sayreville Borough **COUNTY:** Middlesex  
**TOTAL AREA OF APPLICANT'S PARCEL:** N/A

**AREA CLAIMED BY STATE:** 93,894 sq. ft.  
**FORMERLY FLOWED:** 95 sq. ft.  
**CURRENTLY FLOWED:** 93,799 sq. ft.

| TIDELANDS MAP: | SOURCE:                     | ADOPTED:   | REMNANTS: |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| #588-2106      | 1977 PAN                    | 5/27/ 1982 | N/A       |
| #588-2112      | 1977 EPI-IRC, Current Scene | 5/27/82    | N/A       |
| #595-2112      | 1977 EPI-IRC, Current Scene | 5/27/82    | N/A       |

**COST OF LICENSE:** \$14,084.00 for year 1 with a 2.5% increase per year

Transco is seeking a new Tidelands Utility License for portions of its Northeast Supply Enhancement Project that are located within NJ tidelands. This is for the construction of a new 26" diameter gas pipeline. A small portion of the pipeline will cross underground where a few formerly flowed mapped claimed streams were located, and one crossing of a current creek (Cheesequake Creek Tributary), then cross into the Raritan Bay at Sayreville adjacent to where an existing gas line installed in the 1960s is located. That existing pipeline received a Tidelands one-fee license in 1967 and was installed in 1968. For the new pipeline, only portions of the Raritan Bay Loop will be located in New Jersey Waters. The total linear feet of the Raritan Bay Loop in NJ is 32,701 feet. From the Sayreville shoreline, the proposed pipeline runs 10,696.78 feet to the NJ/NY state line. The pipeline then dips back into NJ waters north of Sandy Hook and then runs for another 22,0003.93 feet in NJ and then back into NY waters. There is also a cathode protection line (CP Loop) that helps prevent corrosion that extends approximately 1,800 linear feet into the bay. The Tidelands license fee applied to those portions of the pipeline that crosses claimed and/or currently flowed tidelands based on the total area of the structure which includes the 26" diameter pipe, and any concrete casing or other structure(s) that make up the utility line. Slides were shown of the pipeline route.

The total square footage for the structures to occupy tidelands is listed at the top and the price calculation is based on the square footage multiplied by the current rate or base fee of \$0.15 sq. ft. utility fee in 2026 established in the current TRC utility policy. There is a 2.5% inflator increase applied against the base rate so the cost of the license will increase accordingly with the increase in the base rate. The license fee will begin at \$14,084.00 per year and increase overtime. The current utility license policy is for a 24-year license term period.



Overall, the project will expand the existing interstate natural gas pipeline system in Pennsylvania and NJ and the existing offshore natural gas pipeline system in NJ and NY waters. Areas of the pipeline intersecting with tidelands will include 3 “Loop” portions: The Madison Loop runs through the uplands which only crosses approximately 44 linear feet of tidelands claimed streams as it nears the Raritan Bay. The Raritan Bay Loop which runs offshore from Sayreville but only a portion of the line will run through NJ waters as noted above; and the Cathodic Protection (“CP”) power cable is 1,831 feet long and is associated with the Raritan Bay Loop. According to the applicant this is for expanded capacity for the national grid.

The project has received a NJDEP Land Use permit under file #0000-25-0012.1 LUP250001, approved on November 7, 2025. A copy of the permit and environmental report have been provided to the Councilmembers. The line running through the bay was laid out to avoid environmental impacts and/or avoid contamination sites.

All upland owner permissions where the pipeline crosses over State owned Tidelands have been received.

In a portion of the Raritan Bay Loop, the proposed pipeline will cross an existing cable, the Neptune Regional Transmission Cable. There are two proposed scenarios for the crossing – a shallow crossing and a deep crossing. The final placement for the proposed Transco pipeline will be determined based on the depth of the Neptune Cable. Both crossing options are approved under the issued permit #0000-25-0012.1 LUP250001.

This Tidelands Utility License is being processed based on the square footage of the license area for the shallow crossing scenario, where a larger square footage will be required due to the placement of additional concrete mattresses needed to protect the pipeline at this shallower crossing depth. If it is determined that the deep crossing (which is preferred by the applicant) is possible, the total license area would be reduced from 93,894 sq. ft. to 83,865 sq. ft. due to the smaller overall size of concrete mattresses needed. The license will include a condition for a post-construction plan to identify which crossing was utilized and what the final square footage is. The license fee can be amended in future years if the overall square footage of the license area is lower based on the post construction information.

This license will also include a condition that the issuance of the license does not give the right to exclude other future crossing of the pipeline, provided those lines received all necessary approvals.

It was noted that there are people from the public who wished to comment on the application and the Council has been provided additional background materials<sup>3</sup>.

This project has all the necessary regulatory approvals including the DEP land use permits as well as the federal approvals such as FERC approval and therefore it meets the environmental regulatory standards. The license also complies with the Council’s Utility or Utility Related Projects policy (Adopted 10/06/10) which is posted on the Tidelands website under the Forms and Documents page at <https://dep.nj.gov/wlm/forms/#tdl> .

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<sup>3</sup> This case was originally on the agenda for the April 1, 2026, TRC meeting which was cancelled. Prior to that meeting there was a public comment period where comments were received via email. The Council was provided with those comments. There was also a list of people from the public who previously indicated they wished to speak during the meeting to provide comment. The commentators included objectors and supporters of the project.



**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Based on the fact that it has the necessary regulatory permit approvals and follows the current Council policy, staff recommended approving a 24-year Utility License for a consideration of \$14,084.00 for the first year with a 2.5% increase applied to the based rate (as provided on the TRC's website), based on the shallow crossing scenario. The license will include a condition that it can be amended if the deep crossing is utilized and the overall license square footage is decreased.

After the staff's summary presentation of the project description, Council Chairperson Robbie asked if there were any questions or comments from the Council. Councilmember Raichle commented that the license should include a condition to remove the pipeline if they do not build the project or cease using it, and it should also require an as-built plan. Manager Bearce noted that there are standard conditions for removal of structures if they cease being licensed, but that the license can include special language that would satisfy the Council's concerns for this project. Councilmember Gaine had a question about the existing pipeline (built in the 1960s) vs the route of this new proposed pipeline, commenting that the older pipeline ran in a straighter more direct path and why this new pipeline was more circuitous.

The applicant's representatives, including their agent, Richard Scott, Esq. and project director Stephen Kellogg, responded that new route was selected as part of the alternative analysis with oversight from the various regulatory agencies to choose the best route to limit environmental impacts, anchorage areas, and cross the Ambrose Channel at a desired location due to the dynamic conditions of the bay. Councilmember Gaine also asked about the depths of the pipeline, particularly the shallower crossing vs the deeper crossing of the Neptune cable which was answered by Richard Scott.

Councilmember Raichle suggested conditions for reporting requirements for the status of the pipeline, that the Council be provided with copies of any regulatory required reporting information such as inspection reports with a consideration that some information may be non-public for safety or security reasons.

Chairperson Robbie then asked if the applicant wished to speak. Agent Scott provided a short summary about Transco corporation, other pipelines in NJ, and this project, noting that it has all the necessary regulatory approvals, meets the required safety standards, and complies with the State's coastal zone management rules and request Council approve the license.

Chairperson Robbie then noted that there are many people wishing to speak and set ground rules because of the number of speakers. Each speaker would be limited to three (3) minutes to comment. A list of known speakers was already generated and posted in the slide presentation. Those not already on the list but wishing to speak could sign up by adding their names to the chat in Teams. Bureau staff would call out the names of the speakers in order and monitor their time. The objector's comments ranged from claims about general overall impacts, impacts to the marine environment, impacts to water quality, impacts during construction, impacts in the uplands including the compressor station, the project was not needed, and the project will not benefit the public. Two speakers commented in support of the project on behalf of the business and industry groups the speakers represented. This is not an exhaustive list of the comments received, see the meeting transcripts for details.

The following people spoke in the order listed below:<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> There was a list of speakers with their names presented on a slide. These were people who indicated they wished to speak in advance of the April 1, 2026, meeting that was cancelled. The names on the list for numbers 5 – 22 were names provided by Clean Ocean Action prior to the April 1 meeting. All the names on the list were called but several of the people on the list did not appear at the May 6 meeting. The rest of the people in attendance were



1. Daniel Greenhouse, Senior Staff Attorney, from the Eastern Environmental Law Center, on behalf Food & Water Watch, Sierra Club, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Princeton Manor Homeowners Association, and Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition. He stated that they submitted written comments including letters dated August 15 and September 25, 2025<sup>5</sup>. Greenhouse said there is pending litigation in opposition to the project and objected to the project.
2. Next staff called on Honorable Philip Kramer, Mayor of Franklin Township, who was second on the list from the cancelled April 1 meeting. However, he was not present.
3. Cindy Zipf, Clean Ocean Action, Executive Director – objected to the project.
4. Madison Wurst, Clean Ocean Action - objected to the project.
5. Taylor McFarland, NJ Sierra Club, conservation program manager – objected to the project.
6. Rachel Dawn Davis, Waterspirit - objected to the project.
7. Next staff called on Matt Gove, Surfrider Foundation who was on the list provided by Clean Ocean Action from the cancelled April 1 meeting – not present.
8. Rupali Chakravati, Princeton Manor who was on the list provided by Clean Ocean Action from the cancelled April 1 meeting - not present.
9. Carol Kuehn, resident Franklin Twp - objected to the project
10. Leslie Mangold, Save the Whales who was on the list provided by Clean Ocean Action from the cancelled April 1 meeting – not present
11. Donna Player, Resident who was on the list provided by Clean Ocean Action from the cancelled April 1 meeting – not present.
12. Greg Remaud, NY/NJ Baykeeper - objected to the project.
13. Susan Mikaits, Resident, Atlantic Highlands - objected to the project.
14. Kip Cherry, Resident, Conservation Chair for the Central Group of the Sierra Club, New Jersey - objected to the project.
15. Danielle McCulloch, American Littoral Society who was on the list provided by Clean Ocean Action from the cancelled April 1 meeting – not present.
16. Charlie Kratovil, Food and Water Watch - objected to the project.
17. Linda Powell, Resident - objected to the project.
18. Patty Cronheim, ReThink Energy NJ - objected to the project.
19. Milena Bimpong, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters - objected to the project.
20. Diane Heyer, Resident, High Gate Manor - objected to the project.
21. Jenna Reynolds, Save Coastal Wildlife who was on the list provided by Clean Ocean Action from the cancelled April 1 meeting – not present.
22. Louise Usechak, League of Women Voters - objected to the project.
23. Andrew J. Provence, NJ resident and environmental attorney - objected to the project.

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instructed during the meeting that if they wished to speak to add their names to the chat in Teams and they would be called on in order. Updated slides were provided during the meeting with a running tally of the list of names so that people would know the order and where they were on the list. The names and titles were provided by the speakers.

<sup>5</sup> These letters were provided to the TRC in advance of the meeting.



24. Kristine Gunningham, resident - objected to the project.
25. Allison McLeod, NJ League of Conservation Voters - objected to the project.
26. Celeste Racano - objected to the project.
27. Kirk Frost – objected to the project.
28. Nidhi Kulkarni, Middlesex County resident - objected to the project.
29. Ray Cantor, New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA) – commented in support of the project on behalf of the NJBIA.
30. Judith Canepa, Vet board member and Energy Conservation Committee Chair in New York City – objected to the project.
31. Dennis Hart, Executive Director of the Chemistry Council of New Jersey - commented in support of the project on behalf of the manufacturers he represents.
32. Jill Aquino, Sussex County resident and nurse - objected to the project.
33. Jessie Lindsay - objected to the project.
34. Kin Gee, president of the grassroots group called CHARGE, Consumers Helping Affect Regulation of Gas and Electric - objected to the project.
35. Paige Pinckney, New York resident - objected to the project.
36. Richard Jones, Highlands, New Jersey resident - objected to the project.
37. Don Greenberg, Bradley Beach, New Jersey resident, and the at-large chair of the Surfrider Foundation - objected to the project.
38. Harsh Bhargava - objected to the project.
39. Anshul Gupta, NJ resident and Policy and Research Director for New York Research Clean Power Organization Energy Solutions - objected to the project.
40. Paula Rogovin, Food and Water Watch - objected to the project.
41. Stephanie Startz, resident of Hudson County - objected to the project.
42. Ken Dolsky, Empower New Jersey, chair of the Best New Jersey and vice president of New Jersey Forest Watch - objected to the project
43. Steven Mitchell, Somerville, Somerset County resident - objected to the project.
44. Pablo Salazar, Mercer County resident and college student - objected to the project.
45. John Conklin, Borough Council President, Rumson, NJ - objected to the project.
46. Dr. Donna Lisi, clinical pharmacist, Franklin Township, Somerset County resident, and chair of the Franklin Township Board of Health Advisory Council - objected to the project.
47. Elizabeth Roedell, South Brunswick resident - objected to the project.
48. Jane Califf, secretary of 350 NJ Rockland in NY - objected to the project.
49. Virginia Wardell, Policy Director of Climate Revolution Action Network - objected to the project.
50. Donald Wolfe, NJ resident - objected to the project.
51. Eileen Eisenberg, NJ resident - objected to the project.
52. Scarlett Knight, NJ resident, high school student - objected to the project.

That concluded the public speakers.



During the public comments, Councilmember Baldwin commented that it would be helpful if Council received further guidance on the TRC's authority and decision-making process. After the last speaker, Council Chairperson Robbie made a motion that they go into executive session before further discussion about this matter, to seek further guidance and legal advice from the Council's Deputy Attorney General (DAG) because there were comments or questions from Council about their authority and questions about potential litigation.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion by Councilmember Robbie, seconded by Councilmember Baldwin to go into executive session.

Before going into executive session, DAG Seminoff read the following statement:

The Council has voted to go into executive session so that I, Nicholas Semenoff, the Deputy Attorney General advising the Council, can provide legal advice to them. The Open Public Meetings Act provides that a public body such as the Tidelands Resource Council may meet in closed executive session to discuss any pending or anticipated litigation in which the public body is or may become a party. Whereas the Tidelands Resource Council desires to retire to closed session to discuss attorney-client privilege issues related to anticipated litigation related to the Transco gas pipeline application. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Tidelands Resource Council shall at this time meet in closed session to discuss the above-mentioned matter. The substance of the closed session will be disclosed publicly only when the threat of litigation is passed or when such release would not breach an attorney-client privilege.

## END EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon returning to the regular meeting, Council Chairperson Robbie stated that Councilmembers have questions for the applicant. Councilmember Grabas asked if Transco has ever done horizontal directional drilling (HDD) before. Richard Scott and Stephen Kellogg representing Transco responded that they have done both in-water and shore to water drills successfully. Grabas asked about the core treatment to test the pipeline when it is installed, the pipeline run through the Raritan Bay slag superfund site, and the resuspension of sediments during construction. The applicant's representatives including Richard Scott and Steven MacLeod, environmental consultant, responded that the core treat is approved and will not harm the environment, and that the pipeline will cross the slag site by HDD about 90 feet below the bottom of the bay.

Councilmember Grabas made a motion to approve the staff's recommendation and approve the issuance of the license but with the proviso that it is limited to seven (7) years, after which it would be reviewed again for renewal, and the conditions recommended and concurred by Councilmember's Raichle and Gaine; to provide as-built drawings once constructed, provide the Council with copies of any regulatory required inspection reports related to the pipe integrity, and that if the pipeline is abandoned it be removed and restored to the previous condition.





Councilmember Grabas also stated that the TRC approval concerns the application for a license, which is a type of land transaction, noting that the required land use permits and approvals have already been issued and that the TRC members are relying upon the work of the DEP, FERC, and other regulatory agencies in making their decision. That the Council reviewed the information provided, the comments received, and that the vote is based on the various permit approvals, and the Council's established policies.

The applicant's agent Scott accepted the conditions but asked the reason for a 7-year license rather than a 24-year license which is the standard utility license term according to the current policy, noting the existing pipeline in the bay has been there since 1968, and the commitment for the grid is to maintain the pipeline and service or at least 20 years. Council Chairperson Robbie stated that the 7-year term would give the Council the opportunity to review the project in 7 years in the event there are changes to the current utility policy.

Therefore, a motion by Councilmember Grabas, seconded by Councilmember Voltaggio, passed by a vote of 7-0 to approve a 7-year utility license for the project based on the fee and with the conditions as noted above.

That concluded this calendar.

## **Adjournment**

A motion by Councilmember Grabas, seconded by Councilmember Voltaggio, passed by a vote of 7-0 to adjourn the meeting.

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2026. All meetings will be held remotely until further notice. See the Departments web site for the Tidelands Resource Council at [https://www.nj.gov/dep/landuse/tl\\_main.html](https://www.nj.gov/dep/landuse/tl_main.html) for notices and links to future meetings. In each matter that came before the Council at this meeting, the Council determined that the action it took is in the public interest. However, the Council's action on each of these matters does not release the public trust interest in the State's presently flowed or formerly flowed tidelands within record title.



I certify that this is a true copy of the minutes of the Tidelands Resource Council meeting of May 6, 2026, approved by the Council at the June 3, 2026 meeting.

*Randy D. Bearce*

6/3/2026

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy D. Bearce  
Manager  
Bureau of Tidelands Management

The actions taken by the Tidelands Resource Council at its meeting on May 6, 2026 are hereby approved pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1B-13 (Supp. 1998), except for the following:

☒ There are no exceptions.

☐ There are exceptions. See attached MEMORANDUM.

Each approval may be reexamined just before delivery of the instrument to ensure that the transaction is proper under the law. The State has not conveyed or assigned its title until approval by all the authorized state officials and actual delivery. Until actual delivery, this approval may be revoked.





As to the approval of the April 23, 2026 TRC meeting minutes (approved at the May 6, 2026 meeting):



6/9/26

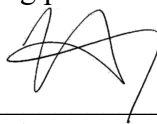
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Date

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Jennifer L. Moriarty, Assistant Commissioner  
Watershed & Land Management

As to the approval of the May 6, 2026 TRC meeting pertaining to the Transco matter (file 1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001):



6/12/26

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Date

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Henry Gajda, Chief of Staff, NJDEP

### **Tidelands Resource Council-Opening of Meeting**

(I call this meeting of the Tidelands Resource Council to order.) In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, written notice of this meeting was provided in the annual notice of meetings, by publication at least 48 hours in advance notice of the time, date, and location in a number of newspapers of general circulation in New Jersey, the Secretary of State, and anyone who requested it. The list of newspapers can be found in the Council's annual meeting notice and in our minutes.

The Tidelands Resource Council is a quasi-legislative body and does not hold public hearings in the usual sense of the word. For individual applications, our procedure is to first hear from the staff, who will provide a summary of the application and its recommendation. At which time, the Council may ask questions regarding the summary. Then the Council will hear from the applicant; and we welcome comments from anyone else who wishes to speak on the application. People who speak before the Council are not sworn witnesses, and we do not allow cross examinations by other members of the public. The Council and staff may ask further questions of the applicant and others who speak.

When the staff has notice of that any particular application will be contested, the Council requires that the applicant provide a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the portion of the meeting and requires that the applicant provide a copy of the transcript to the Bureau of Tidelands Management.



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Tidelands Resource Council  
Public Meeting Notice and Agenda  
Held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026  
Commencing at 10:04 a.m.

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IN RE:  
1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001 TRANSCONTINENTAL  
GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY, Utility License,  
Cheesequake Creek Tributary & Raritan Bay,  
Sayreville Boro, Middlesex County.

.....

1 C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

2 MARY PAT ROBBIE, CHAIRMAN

3 JOSEPH GRABAS

4 TOM VOLTAGGIO

5 NED GAINÉ

6 ANDREW RAICHLE

7 ZOE BALDWIN

8 STUART CHALLONER

9

10 A L S O P R E S E N T :

11 MARILA XIE, ORGANIZER

12 NICOLAS SEMINOFF, Deputy Attorney General

13 RANDY BEARCE

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

RUTTER & ROY, LLP

By: RICHARD G. SCOTT, ESQUIRE

2052 Route 35, Suite 103

Rivers Edge Professional Building

Wall, New Jersey 07719

(732) 462-1990

Attorneys for the Applicant

1 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: We will now  
2 move on to our calendar of cases. This  
3 morning, we will be considering one  
4 application. That application is for the  
5 utility license for Transcontinental Gas Pipe  
6 Line Company. So, Randy, if you could review  
7 that application and the staff  
8 recommendation.

9 MR. RANDY BEARCE: Yes. And I  
10 just want to make sure that Council Member  
11 Challoner has not arrived or is not in  
12 attendance, but we do have six council  
13 members present. So with that, I will start  
14 the summary.

15 So, this case is File No.  
16 1219-215-0004.1 TDI 250001. The Applicant is  
17 Trans Continental Gas Pipeline Company, and  
18 the purpose of the application is for a  
19 utility license. This is going to cross a  
20 couple of tributary creeks, Cheesequake Creek  
21 Tributary and the Raritan Bay.

22 It's going to extend out into the  
23 Raritan Bay offshore of Sayreville in  
24 Middlesex County. The total area claimed by  
25 the state is 93,894 square feet. That is the

1 total area calculated that is going to be  
2 occupied by the utility structures to include  
3 the pipeline, any concrete mattress, and so  
4 forth, that I'm going to describe.

5 With that, there is 95 square  
6 feet of formerly flowed tidelands, where it  
7 is going to cross a mapped tidelands-claimed  
8 area in the uplands for formerly flowed  
9 creek, and 93,799 square feet of currently  
10 flowed tidelands.

11 This is on three different  
12 Tidelands maps, and the overall cost of the  
13 license is going to be \$14,084 for the first  
14 year, and there will be a 2.5 percent  
15 inflator increase applied to the base rate,  
16 and so that annual license fee will go up  
17 over time.

18 The license period is for 24  
19 years. The Council has been provided with  
20 background material, including copies of the  
21 permit, approved permit, the -- also they  
22 have received comments and information from  
23 various people who have an interest in the  
24 project, both from the Applicant and from  
25 objector to the project. And they've -- so

1 they've been provided with all that  
2 background material.

3 Transco is seeking a new  
4 Tidelands Utility License for a portion of  
5 its northeast supply enhancement project that  
6 is located within New Jersey Tidelands. This  
7 is for the construction of a new 26-inch gas  
8 pipeline. A small portion of the pipeline  
9 will cross underground where a few formally  
10 flowed, mapped claim streams were located,  
11 and one crossing of a current creek being the  
12 Cheesequake Creek tributary, then it will  
13 cross into Raritan Bay at Sayreville,  
14 adjacent to where there's an existing gas  
15 pipeline installed in the 1960s.

16 So if you look at the slide  
17 there, you can see the line in green is where  
18 this new gas pipeline is being proposed  
19 that's going to run through the Raritan Bay.  
20 The light blue line that you see there is the  
21 New York/New Jersey boundary line. So -- and  
22 then the purple line below that is where the  
23 -- there is already an existing gas pipeline  
24 that is operated by Transco that was built in  
25 the 1960s.

1                   So the gas pipeline is only going  
2     to run through a short segment out shore,  
3     into the Raritan Bay, before it crosses into  
4     New York waters, and then it is going to dip  
5     back down into New Jersey Waters just north  
6     of Sandy Hook, that you can see there in the  
7     slide.

8                   And if you go to the next slide  
9     --

10                  Marila, can you go to the next  
11     slide?

12                  That is where it's -- the portion  
13     of it is going to cross over the uplands, and  
14     you can see that the area in yellow is the  
15     map-claimed area. And any portion that is  
16     still currently flowed tidelands, that is  
17     where anywhere it is crossing into  
18     state-owned tidelands, the fee charge is  
19     applied to that square footage.

20                  There is also a short segment,  
21     the area -- the line in blue there, that's  
22     the cathode protection line. And I'll  
23     describe the project further. So where it  
24     crosses, and you can go back to the other  
25     slide in the Raritan Bay, the first slide.



1           The existing pipe in from the  
2   1960's received a Tidelands one-fee license  
3   in 1967 and was installed in 1968. For the  
4   new pipeline, only portions of the Raritan  
5   Bay loop will be located in New Jersey  
6   waters, as I've already described.

7           The total linear feet of the  
8   Raritan Bay loop in New Jersey is 32,701  
9   linear feet. From the Sayreville shoreline,  
10   it is 10,697 feet, roughly, to the New  
11   Jersey/New York State line. The pipeline  
12   then dips back in to New Jersey waters, north  
13   of Sandy Hook, and then runs for another  
14   22,004 feet before it goes back into New York  
15   waters.

16          There is also the cathode  
17   protection line, which is identified as the  
18   "CP loop" on -- and that was the one in blue  
19   that we showed in the previous slide. That  
20   helps prevent corrode -- corrosion, and that  
21   extends approximately 1,800 linear feet into  
22   the bay.

23          The Tidelands license fee is  
24   applied to those portions of the pipeline  
25   that crosses claimed, previously flowed, or

1 currently flowed tidelands based on the total  
2 area of the structure, which includes the 26  
3 diameter pipeline and any concrete casing or  
4 other structures that make up the utility  
5 line.

6 The total square footage for the  
7 structure to occupy Tidelands was -- I  
8 already mentioned those total square footage,  
9 and the price calculation is based on the  
10 square footage multiplied by the current rate  
11 or base fee of 15 cents a square foot. That  
12 is based on the current utility license  
13 policy, which is posted to our website.

14 So in 2026, the rate is 15 cents  
15 a square foot. There is a 2.5 percent  
16 inflator increased applied against the base  
17 rate, so the cost of the license will  
18 increase accordingly with the increase in the  
19 base rate. And you can see on our utility  
20 license policy on our website, you could see  
21 that rate table, that 2.5 percent inflator  
22 doesn't increase the base rate every single  
23 year, it might take two or three years before  
24 it goes up from 15 cents to 16 cents, and 16  
25 cents to 17 cents, et cetera. But that

1 license fee will be calculated accordingly.

2 The license fee will begin at  
3 14,084 per year and increase over time, as I  
4 mentioned.

5 Overall, the project will expand  
6 the existing interstate natural gas pipeline  
7 system in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and  
8 the existing offshore natural gas pipeline  
9 system in New Jersey and New York Waters.

10 Areas of the pipeline  
11 intersecting with the Tidelands will include  
12 three loop portions, the Madison Loop runs  
13 from the uplands, which only crosses the,  
14 approximately, 44 linear feet of Tidelands  
15 and those are the claimed formerly flowed or  
16 currently flowed streams near the Raritan  
17 Bay. And then the Raritan Bay Loop runs  
18 offshore from Sayreville, and again, only a  
19 portion of that runs through New Jersey  
20 waters.

21 And then you also have the  
22 cathode protection, or CP loop, which is the  
23 1,800 or so feet, and is associated with the  
24 Raritan Bay Loop.

25 And according to the Applicant,

1 this pipeline is for expanded capacity for  
2 the National Grid. The project has received  
3 New Jersey DEP land use permit approval under  
4 File No. 0000-25-0012.1 LUP250001, which was  
5 approved on November 7, 2025. And again, a  
6 copy of the permit and the permit's  
7 environmental report was provided to the  
8 Council members.

9 The line running through the bay  
10 was laid out so as to avoid environmental  
11 impacts and/or avoid any contaminated sites.  
12 All upland owner permissions where the  
13 pipeline crosses over state-owned Tidelands  
14 have been received.

15 In the portion of the Raritan Bay  
16 Loop, the proposed pipeline will cross an  
17 existing cable, the Neptune Regional  
18 Transmission cable. There are two proposed  
19 scenarios for the crossing; a shallow  
20 crossing and a deep crossing. The final  
21 placement for the proposed Transco pipeline  
22 will be determined based on the depth of the  
23 Neptune cable. That'll be determined when --  
24 during construction.

25 Both crossing options are

1 approved under the permit that was issued.  
2 The Tidelands utility license is being  
3 processed for the shallow-crossing scenario,  
4 where a larger square footage will be  
5 required due to the placement of additional  
6 concrete mattresses needed to protect the  
7 pipeline at the shallower depth.

8 If it is determined that the deep  
9 crossing, which is preferred by the Applicant  
10 is possible, the total license area will be  
11 reduced from 93,894 square feet to 83,865  
12 square feet, due to the smaller amount of the  
13 concrete mattresses needed.

14 This -- if the -- the license  
15 will include a condition that they will give  
16 us post-construction information so we know  
17 which crossing was utilized and what the  
18 square footage -- ending square footage is,  
19 and the license can be amended in future  
20 years if the square footage is reduced. So  
21 in future years, the license,  
22 post-construction, would be amended if the  
23 square footage is lower.

24 This license will also include a  
25 condition that the issuance of the license

1 does not give the right to exclude other  
2 future crossing of the pipeline, provided  
3 those lines receive all the necessary  
4 approvals.

5 This license complies with the  
6 utility or utility-related projects policy  
7 adopted on 10/6/2010 by the TRC, which is  
8 posted on the Tidelands website. And again,  
9 it has all the necessary land use permits,  
10 and it also has all the necessary other  
11 federal approvals, including the FERC  
12 approval, and, therefore, it meets the  
13 environmental regulatory standards.

14 There are a number of known  
15 objectors, and we have a list of the  
16 objectors and -- however, the staff  
17 recommendation is for approval of a 24-year  
18 utility license for consideration of \$14,084  
19 for the first year's license fee, with the  
20 2.5 percent increase against the rate. And  
21 so the license fee will go up over time,  
22 accordingly. And that is using the  
23 shallow-crossing scenario. The license will  
24 include a condition that it can be amended if  
25 the deep crossing is utilized and the overall

1 square footage is lesser, and that final  
2 square footage amount will be multiplied  
3 against the appropriate license base fee to  
4 arrive at the fee going forward.

5 And that -- the recommendation is  
6 based on the fact that it has the necessary  
7 regulatory permit approvals, and also that it  
8 meets the current utility policy established  
9 by the TRC.

10 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Thank you,  
11 Randy.

12 Before we move on to questions  
13 from council members, Randy has mentioned  
14 that we have a list of those who have  
15 registered to speak. Those not on the list  
16 may register to speak through the chat, but  
17 please refrain from using the chat for  
18 anything except technical issues or to  
19 register to speak. We will not be accepting  
20 comments through the chat. Thank you.

21 So with that, Council members, do  
22 you have questions, comments on this  
23 application and the staff recommendation?

24 MR. NED GAINES: I have one,  
25 Randy. When we had looked at the offshore

1 wind utility license, I guess a year and a  
2 half ago, we included some provisions with  
3 respect to abandonment and the obligations of  
4 the licensee to remove the asset, if they  
5 were no longer using it, as well as, I guess,  
6 some -- early -- as I recall -- I'm going on  
7 recollection here.

8 Also some provisions whereas, you  
9 know, if they didn't start the project within  
10 some time frame that the license would  
11 expire. I know we had that conversation,  
12 whether it wound up in the actual license, I  
13 am not sure.

14 So I would just like to kind of  
15 register those opinions about, you know, if  
16 we wind up approving a license, that we have  
17 some protection against a pipeline -- out  
18 there that isn't being used.

19 MR. RANDY BEARCE: We certain --  
20 the Bureau can certainly put in those  
21 conditions, if that's -- per the direction of  
22 the Council, so we can include a provision  
23 that it be removed if abandoned. There is  
24 generally standard conditions with licenses  
25 that, you know, the license would be required



1 to be renewed in perpetuity, and if the  
2 license is discontinued, that the structures  
3 are supposed to be removed. But we can  
4 include specific special provisions for that.

5 As far as time frame for  
6 completion, generally the land use -- DEP  
7 land use permits are good for a period of  
8 five years. So I would suggest that timing  
9 that with the timing of the permit, if they  
10 don't start the construction before that,  
11 before the permit expires, then they would  
12 have to apply to renew or get a new or renew  
13 the permit. So if you want some sort of  
14 timing restriction in there, I would suggest  
15 timing that along with the permit approval.

16 MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: Yeah, those  
17 in water permits are extendable, you know, by  
18 an additional five -- I just -- you know, if  
19 the license is approved, I don't want it to  
20 be kind of utilized, in my opinion, as a sort  
21 of placeholder, so -- yeah, that's my  
22 concern.

23 I have a second issue, which is,  
24 you know, traditionally on utility licenses,  
25 we get approved permit drawings and con --

1     you know -- well, permit drawings, and they  
2     show the location of the pipeline and the  
3     license, however, my understanding is we  
4     traditionally have not been provided with  
5     as-builts, and because it's, you know,  
6     pipeline in the water is -- and, you know,  
7     whether it's cables or pipes or whatever,  
8     it's not a precise construction activity.

9             So I would like to see a  
10    requirement for a submittal of an as-built so  
11    that we know, you know, a center line  
12    as-built so we know exactly where this pipe  
13    is versus what was shown on the permit  
14    drawings -- the utility license drawings.

15            MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: I think that  
16    makes sense. I'd like to second that.

17            MR. RANDY BEARCE: We certainly  
18    can include that, if that is what the Council  
19    instructs us to do.

20            MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: So to  
21    further onto that, one last thing is that, if  
22    there is a material difference between what  
23    was proposed and what was installed, that the  
24    license drawings should be modified to  
25    reflect for the record. And I say that

1 because, you know, in my business, we'll  
2 often be looking for the location of  
3 underwater assets and we -- you know, because  
4 we might be installing and something else  
5 appear, or whatever, and we want to know  
6 where they are.

7 I will also caveat what I just  
8 said with, to the extent that that  
9 information has security concerns, you know,  
10 we should accommodate those.

11 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Thank you,  
12 Andy.

13 MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: Thank you.

14 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Is there  
15 any other council member? Ned?

16 MR. NED GAINES: Thank you. First  
17 off, I agree with every one of Andy's points,  
18 and I would like to get them into the motion.  
19 So thank you, Andy, for that. And really,  
20 I'd like to see those in other places as  
21 well, and I think you're bringing a lot in  
22 here, and I appreciate that.

23 I have a couple of questions  
24 regarding the map, and if we could go to one  
25 of the maps, particularly the three-lined

1 map. I'd like to look at some of the  
2 differences and ask a question about the  
3 difference between the existing pipeline and  
4 the current pipeline, specifically the turns  
5 --

6 MR. RANDY BEARCE: Can you go  
7 back to the first slide.

8 MR. NED GAINES: The existing  
9 pipeline is straight lines with hard turns,  
10 and here I see curves. And I am assuming  
11 they're there for a reason, and I would like  
12 to know the reasoning; why we have that dip  
13 particularly there off of Sandy Hook coming  
14 into New Jersey. There should be -- I'm sure  
15 there is a reason for it.

16 MR. RANDY BEARCE: It is my  
17 understanding -- I could suggest that the  
18 Applicant can speak on that behalf, but it's  
19 my understanding that the -- that this was to  
20 avoid environmental impacts as much as  
21 possible. So to avoid any possible  
22 contamination areas. And there was also --  
23 having it further off of Sandy Hook, so it  
24 impacted the -- because of the currents that  
25 are in that location, but I'll let the

1 Applicant address those specific issues.

2 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Do you want  
3 to do that now or wait till the Applicant's  
4 turn to speak? I think it would to make  
5 sense to ask the Applicant to respond to that  
6 question at this point in time, and  
7 representing the Applicant is Mr. Scott?

8 MR. RICHARD SCOTT: That is  
9 correct. I am here, and we can certainly  
10 respond to that question. I've got a couple  
11 of folks on from Transco, from their project  
12 management, engineering and environmental  
13 team. So if I misspeak -- I'll take a first  
14 crack at it. So if I misspeak, I've got  
15 the -- you know, the right people on the call  
16 to kick me under the table, so to speak.

17 So Richard Scott, a partner with  
18 the law firm of Rutter & Roy. We serve as  
19 New Jersey counsel for Transco. We have been  
20 representing them since the 1950s and, you  
21 know, well before this -- the original lower  
22 New York Bay lateral was installed in Raritan  
23 Bay.

24 So to respond to that question,  
25 so some of the members of the Council may be

1     aware, a couple of years ago, we -- Transco  
2     came before the Council, you know, due to  
3     some of the dynamic conditions near the Sandy  
4     Hook peninsula. You know, it was causing  
5     some issues in terms of, you know, exposures  
6     to the pipeline. I think there is a lot of  
7     movement in those conditions there.

8                 So as part of this -- our  
9     alternatives analysis with the Federal Energy  
10    Regulatory Commission, FERC, which is the  
11    lead federal agency that regulates Transco  
12    and other interstate natural gas pipeline  
13    companies, as well as our analysis with our  
14    permit application with NJDEP, we looked at a  
15    route t hat would avoid environmental  
16    impacts, but also stay further away from  
17    Sandy Hook and getting into those conditions  
18    that -- that could cause the pipeline to  
19    become exposed.

20                Also, my understanding is in the  
21    -- when we dip back down into New Jersey  
22    waters, there is a water-to-water horizontal  
23    directional drill of the Ambrose Channel, so  
24    I think they wanted to stay away from some of  
25    those conditions to allow -- you know, that

1 HDD to be successfully implemented.

2 I am going to throw that out to  
3 Steve Kellogg, who's the overall project  
4 manager. I know Steve MacLeod, our  
5 environmental consultant, is also on. So,  
6 guys, if you want to jump in and, you know,  
7 add anything to that or correct anything,  
8 please do.

9 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: Yeah, thank  
10 you, Richard. Stephen Kellogg here, project  
11 director for the overall NESE project  
12 covering all scopes. But yeah, everything  
13 Richard said is accurate. The curving of the  
14 lines in the New York area and then back in  
15 New Jersey were designed in coordination with  
16 many of the state agencies and federal  
17 agencies and the Coast Guard and others to  
18 avoid certain benthic communities to avoid  
19 Anchorage areas, where boats are anchored.

20 And so, yeah, this route was  
21 developed in the first -- the first iteration  
22 of this project many years ago. It was  
23 developed over the years of consultations  
24 with multiple agencies. And it is kind of  
25 how we landed here. We dip back into New

1 Jersey to, again, like Richard said, across  
2 the Ambrose Channel at a desired location to  
3 get back in parallel with our existing line,  
4 and then make that final tie into the rock --  
5 at the Rockaway delivery transfer point.

6 Steven MacLeod would probably  
7 have a -- could speak more eloquently on the  
8 environmental impacts that we've attempted to  
9 avoid here. But mostly driven by agency  
10 consultations is the route.

11 MR. NED GAINES: Just to refine my  
12 question, while we are here. We are talking  
13 that this area, this is a little bit of the  
14 deeper area, and we are looking for more of  
15 the deeper drilling and this -- in this --  
16 this specific area off of Sandy Hook?

17 That is where we are getting the  
18 turns as well, because we are talking  
19 horizontal drilling?

20 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: Right, of  
21 the Ambrose Channel, correct. So where it  
22 turns down into New Jersey and then it turns  
23 kind of north, northeast is where we then  
24 head and cross the Ambrose Channel.

25 MR. NED GAINES: Understood.



1 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Okay. Any  
2 other questions?

3 MR. NED GAINES: I have another  
4 question. Thank you. So regarding the  
5 shallow depth area, which I'm assuming is the  
6 other area to the west, where we might be  
7 going shallow. That shallow superficial  
8 depth of the pipeline, it is also likely  
9 shallower water? Are we talking, when we say  
10 "shallow," we're talking shallow depth of the  
11 pipeline, not necessarily shallow depth of  
12 the water?

13 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: The shallow  
14 depth of the water.

15 MR. NED GAINES: Okay.

16 MR. RANDY BEARCE: Where it is  
17 going to cross the Neptune cable?

18 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: Yes.

19 MR. NED GAINES: So on the western  
20 Raritan Bay -- I mean, I've heard the term,  
21 you know, shallow depth versus deep  
22 crossings. Right. And the shallow depth is  
23 -- we are talking exposure of pipelines. The  
24 pipeline is at a shallow depth. And because  
25 of that shallow depth of it, I'm thinking

1       that is depth within the substrate?

2                   MR. RICHARD SCOTT: We're talking  
3       -- just to clarify, I think -- just so I  
4       think -- when we're talking about shallow or  
5       deep crossing -- so we have to meet minimum  
6       burial depth requirements for, you know, in  
7       -- you know, for the Army Corps, for, you  
8       know, our DEP and New York permits as well.

9                   So we have to construct them or  
10       install them at a minimum -- with a minimum  
11       depth of cover in -- and the shallow deep  
12       crossing is -- when we say "shallow," it's  
13       still the minimum cover over the pipeline.  
14       It is just, once we determine the exact  
15       location of the Neptune cable, we'll  
16       determine whether we go a deep crossing,  
17       which -- in which case does not require  
18       concrete mattresses to -- or as many concrete  
19       mattresses to support the Neptune cable.

20                   But if we have a shallower  
21       crossing -- and when I say "shallow," it is  
22       not that we are exposed. We are still -- and  
23       again, Stephen Kellogg or Steve MacLeod -- we  
24       are still going to be, I think, more than  
25       four feet below the -- the floor.

1                   MR. NED GAINES: You've answered  
2 my question. Thank you.

3                   MR. RICHARD SCOTT: Okay.

4                   MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Any other  
5 questions or comments from council members?

6                   MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: I am coming  
7 back with one more.

8                   I do remember the Applicant  
9 coming in for the -- to fix the exposure of  
10 the existing line near Sandy Hook, and I am  
11 sure that was concerning to you and  
12 concerning to me.

13                   So -- and we've had -- I am going  
14 to give -- like a comparable is that we have  
15 had a lot of living shoreline applications,  
16 and we are concerned that they be maintained  
17 and don't become a hazard. And so this is  
18 more of a common -- again, for our potential  
19 approval of a license, is to the extent that  
20 there is monitoring of the pipeline after  
21 installation, whether it is internal or  
22 required by regulation, I think it would be  
23 helpful, for at least me, on some sort of  
24 periodic basis, to have the licensee report  
25 back to the Board that the pipeline is being

1 properly maintained with the cover that was  
2 required by the regulatory agencies.

3 And as I understand, that's -- I  
4 think it is four feet to top of pipe from --  
5 in the non-channel areas, and then as much as  
6 15 feet below navigation channels, something  
7 like that. But -- yeah, I'd like to see some  
8 reporting back to the Board on the integrity  
9 of the asset -- or Council, sorry. It's just  
10 something to think about for our team.

11 MR. RANDY BEARCE: That is  
12 something that the bureau could put in as a  
13 condition of that, and I would just ask what  
14 time frame -- like, would that be upon each  
15 renewal of the license, with like a ten-year  
16 reporting requirement, or something like  
17 that? How would you like that to -- how  
18 would you envision that -- or what kind of --  
19 how often would you want that review done or  
20 reporting done, at least upon each renewal of  
21 the license or periodically during the term  
22 of the license?

23 MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: I guess the  
24 Applicant would be -- you know, if we could  
25 hear from them. I am sure there is a

1 regulatory requirement. I don't want to add  
2 regulatory requirements onto ones that  
3 already exist. So if there is already a  
4 requirement to survey the pipeline, it would  
5 simply be, you know, a CC to us of those  
6 results, but I'd request that the Applicant  
7 weigh in.

8 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: Richard, I  
9 can jump in here again. This is Steven  
10 Kellogg. By a permit, will five years  
11 post-construction, we will do surveys to  
12 measure the depth to make sure that we are in  
13 compliance with that minimum depth of cover.

14 Additionally, as we run internal  
15 inspections of the pipeline, those internal  
16 inspections come with an X, Y, Z coordinate,  
17 so we can gauge pipe dep that way as well,  
18 and verify that it is in the same spot.

19 MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: I would like  
20 to see counsel copied on the five-year  
21 monitoring.

22 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: I do not  
23 think that is a problem.

24 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Just to be  
25 clear, that is five years post construction,

1 and then every five years thereafter?

2 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: It is five  
3 years post construction to fulfill the permit  
4 requirement. And then regulatory from --  
5 PHMSA, we have to run in-line inspections of  
6 the line, I want to say seven to ten years.  
7 I am not exactly sure of the fema rule here,  
8 and that would also give us a spacial  
9 condition of the line.

10 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Seven to  
11 ten years, okay. Thank you.

12 MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: So based on  
13 that, I would just make it simple and suggest  
14 that we be copied on all regulatory-mandated  
15 surveys of the pipeline.

16 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: And I'll  
17 agree, to the extent that I can, until the  
18 lawyers tell me otherwise. But I don't think  
19 it is fundamentally a problem.

20 MR. RICHARD SCOTT: I am not  
21 seeing an issue, Stephen, you know, if those  
22 are things that we have to -- I know there  
23 are certain permit conditions that we have to  
24 comply with in terms of reporting. I don't  
25 think that is terribly onerous.

1 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: I would  
2 agree with you, Richard.

3 MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: I will just  
4 add in this -- again, I am recognizing that  
5 some of that information may be nonpublic for  
6 national security reasons and that we should  
7 honor those, you know, privacy requirements.  
8 So whatever those might wind up being.

9 MR. RICHARD SCOTT: Yeah, that is  
10 a good point. I mean, we could always --  
11 typically, these situations, we would  
12 designate the information as critical energy  
13 infrastructure information. So, you know, we  
14 appreciate that. That is always a concern.  
15 You know, we want to make sure that anything  
16 that shows the, you know, exact location of  
17 the pipeline is not, you know, exactly --  
18 it's protected.

19 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Any other  
20 questions or comments from council? Hearing  
21 none, we will hear the Applicant. But before  
22 we go on, I just do want to remind everyone  
23 that there is no cross-examination of the  
24 Applicant at this point, or at any point,  
25 other council members and bureau staff may

1 ask further questions of the Applicant.

2 Mr. Scott, is there anything that  
3 you would like to add to this application?

4 MR. RICHARD SCOTT: Yes, if I  
5 may, I'll just keep it brief. I know there  
6 is a lot of interest in this application, so  
7 I -- I don't want to take away from the  
8 public comment. But I just want to kind of  
9 supplement what Randy said and just give the  
10 Council some additional background on Transco  
11 and the project at large.

12 First of all, thank you, I just  
13 want to thank Randy for, you know, his  
14 assistance throughout the process and kind of  
15 shepherding us through, and I appreciate the  
16 Council taking the time to consider our  
17 application and, you know, some of the  
18 thoughtful questions you guys have raised.

19 And also reserving the entire  
20 meeting for us, we appreciate that as well.  
21 I know it took us a while to get here, but I  
22 appreciate the Council's efforts to do that.

23 So just to give some background  
24 on Transco. Transco is an interstate natural  
25 gas transmission company. It's regulated by



1 the FERC, like I said previously, as to, you  
2 know, citing and construction.

3 It is also regulated by the US  
4 DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
5 Administration as to, you know, safety  
6 standards. And you know, this current  
7 license application, I think as Randy alluded  
8 to, is in connection with Transco's Northeast  
9 Supply Enhancement Project, NESE, or "the  
10 project," as we call it. And you know, that  
11 project is an upgrade to Transco's existing  
12 interstate natural gas pipeline system.  
13 Transco has the largest interstate natural  
14 gas system in the -- in the country, and it's  
15 been operating many facilities in New Jersey  
16 since the 1950s.

17 And as part of the NESE project,  
18 there are several components. The ones that  
19 are subject to this application, as Randy  
20 explained, you have the Madison Loop  
21 pipeline, which is a 3.4 mile segment of  
22 20-inch diameter pipe that is running from --  
23 in Old Bridge and Sayreville, and which  
24 parallels an existing 42-inch line within  
25 that area as well.

1                   You also have the Raritan Bay  
2 Loop, as we were discussing, that is a little  
3 over 23 miles in New Jersey and New York  
4 waters, a little under six miles in New  
5 Jersey. And then you also have, as Randy  
6 alluded to, the cathodic protection  
7 facilities, which is that cable that juts out  
8 at the Morgan shore, which is used to protect  
9 the pipeline from corrosion.

10                  In addition to those facilities  
11 that are subject to the Tidelands  
12 application, the NESE project also includes a  
13 new compressor station in Franklin Township,  
14 Somerset County, as well as a new pipeline  
15 loop segment in Pennsylvania called the  
16 Quarryville Loop. And -- so that's just to  
17 give you a kind of high-level overview of the  
18 project.

19                  And again, the project was  
20 designed to provide an additional supply of  
21 natural gas to National Grid for its  
22 customers in the New York City and Long  
23 Island area. The project was determined to  
24 be in the public convenience and necessity by  
25 the FERC, and the FERC issued a certificate

1 in August of 2025.

2 Transco has also received  
3 approvals from the New York State Department  
4 of Environmental Conservation, NYSDEC. We've  
5 also received permits from NJDEP as well, as  
6 Randy said. And then, you know, the, project  
7 was also determined to be -- needed or in the  
8 public interest by the New York Public  
9 Service Commission as well, when it issued an  
10 order in September 2025.

11 And we've also received our  
12 permits from the U.S. Army Corps of  
13 Engineers. So generally speaking, we've --  
14 received, you know, the major permits for  
15 this project. And you know, we respectfully  
16 submit to the Council that the application  
17 meets the standards for the issuance of a  
18 license. You know, we've received the  
19 waterfront development permit from NJDEP.  
20 And we comply with, you know, the Coastal  
21 Zone Management rules and all the applicable  
22 regulations for the project.

23 We've also received consent from  
24 all the upland owners that are crossed by the  
25 Madison Loop, as well as, you know,

1 discussions and consultations and consent  
2 from Neptune as well, for that crossing.

3 And further, you know, we've --  
4 we're amenable to paying, you know, in  
5 accordance with the Council's established  
6 licensing fee schedule. And again, as  
7 determined by a number of federal and state  
8 agencies, the project has been determined to  
9 be in the public interest. And for those  
10 reasons, we are respectfully requesting that  
11 Council vote on this important project and  
12 approve the license today.

13 And thank you for the time. And  
14 again, if any additional questions, you know,  
15 we have got the people here to answer them.  
16 So we appreciate -- we appreciate the  
17 consideration.

18 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Scott. We now move on to the public  
20 comment. Due to the large amount of people  
21 that we have in the meeting today wishing to  
22 provide public comment, we feel it's  
23 necessary to limit the amount of time each  
24 person may speak. Each person will have a  
25 maximum of three minutes to comment. We have

1 a list of people who have registered to speak  
2 before the meeting. Anyone else wishing to  
3 speak, please register your name into the  
4 chat, and we will call you in the order that  
5 you have entered your name into the chat.

6 To maintain an orderly meeting,  
7 when it is your time to speak, we will  
8 announce your name from the list, and then  
9 you will have, again, three minutes to  
10 comment. Again, please refrain from using  
11 the chat for anything other than technical  
12 comments or to register to speak.

13 Okay. Marila, let's proceed with  
14 those who wish to speak.

15 MS. MARILA XIE: Our first  
16 speaker is Dan Greenhouse.

17 MR. DAN GREENHOUSE: My name is  
18 Dan Greenhouse. I'm an attorney with Eastern  
19 Environmental Law Center, and we're -- I'm  
20 speaking today on behalf of our clients in  
21 this proceeding, food and Water Watch, Sierra  
22 Club, New Jersey League of conservator --  
23 Conservation Voters Education Fund, New  
24 Jersey -- New York, New Jersey Bay keeper,  
25 Princeton Manor Homeowners Association, and

1 Jersey Safe Energy Coalition in opposition to  
2 the re-proposed NESE project.

3 First, I'd like to make three  
4 important notes. First, we've submitted  
5 written comments to both the TRC and the  
6 NJDEP dated August 15 and September 25, 2025.  
7 So we anticipate those are in the Council's  
8 record.

9 Second, we anticipate that the  
10 entire permit record for the proposed project  
11 at the NJDEP has been made available and is  
12 incorporated into the Council's  
13 administrative record for the instant  
14 proceeding.

15 Third, the Council should be  
16 aware that there are pending legal challenges  
17 to the New Jersey's issuance of the water  
18 quality certificates for the proposed NESE  
19 project, and also, to challenge New York's  
20 issuance of necessary water quality  
21 certificates for the proposed project.

22 These are pending in federal  
23 court. The challenge to the New York  
24 approval is with Docket Number 252938 in the  
25 United States Court of Appeals for the Second

1 Circuit, with our oral argument, which is  
2 upcoming on June 18.

3 And the case challenging New  
4 Jersey's issuance of the necessary water  
5 quality is with Document Number or Case  
6 Number 261253 in the United States Court of  
7 Appeals for the Third Circuit. And the  
8 briefing is almost completed in that case.

9 So we anticipate that these  
10 critical challenges in court surrounding the  
11 viability and legality of the proposed  
12 project have been made available and are  
13 incorporated into the Council's record for  
14 the instant matter. It is a very real  
15 possibility that the meritorious challenges  
16 brought in these federal courts may result in  
17 significant changes to or reversal of the  
18 current permits that are required for the  
19 project. And so the Council will have to  
20 hold its decision at least until the court  
21 cases have been finally decided.

22 Now moving on to some of the  
23 substantive matters. The TRCs, by statute,  
24 has to determine whether the NESE project is  
25 in the public interest and whether the state

1 may have a future use for the Tidelands at  
2 issue.

3 Now, although other governing  
4 bodies may have made separate and distinct  
5 decisions regarding these public-interest  
6 questions and future uses for these public  
7 lands, the TRC is an independent body that  
8 has the authority to make its own decision  
9 and is not bound by any of these other  
10 governing bodies.

11 Any cost-benefit analysis shows  
12 that this proposed use of the -- of the  
13 Tidelands of our collective properties are  
14 unwise. Pipelines pose well-documented  
15 risks; leaks, spills, groundwater  
16 contamination, habitat fragmentation and  
17 increased greenhouse gas emissions. When  
18 pipelines fail, cleanup costs, ecosystem  
19 damage, and health impacts often fall on  
20 taxpayers in local communities, not the comp  
21 -- not the companies that might profit.

22 Even low probability spills are  
23 unacceptable here, where damage can be  
24 irreversible.

25 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you, Dan



1 Greenhouse. Your three minutes are up. If  
2 you have a final sentence you'd like to wrap  
3 up with, and then we can move to the next  
4 speaker.

5 MR. DAN GREENHOUSE: Yes. The  
6 DEP has formally acknowledged that climate  
7 change imposes massive costs on the public  
8 and that climate change is devastating to the  
9 environment. So this project is going to  
10 increase upstream and downstream generation  
11 of fossil fuels and entrench our long-term  
12 public interest in a fossil fuel economy, as  
13 opposed to being able to transition away from  
14 the fossil fuel dependency at a time when  
15 climate science calls for rapid  
16 decarbonization. Thank you.

17 And I have one final question I  
18 would like to pose to the Council.

19 What is the procedure by which  
20 the DEP will finally decide to approve or  
21 effectuate the TRC's decision, and how will  
22 the public participate in and be on actual  
23 notice of the DEP's final decision? Thank  
24 you.

25 MR. RANDY BEARCE: We are ready

1 for the next speaker, the Honorable Phillip  
2 Kramer, Mayor of Franklin Township. Is the  
3 mayor present?

4 We will move on to the next  
5 speaker on the list. Is Cindy Zipf  
6 available?

7 MS. CINDY ZIPF: Thank you so  
8 much, Chairwoman Robbie and members of the  
9 Council. My name is Cindy Zipf. I'm the  
10 executive director of Clean Ocean Action, and  
11 I want to thank you so much for this  
12 important opportunity today to speak on  
13 Transco's application for a utility license  
14 for their NESE project.

15 I understand that there is an  
16 intense spotlight and focus on the Council,  
17 and it is unusual, and we are -- look forward  
18 to sharing our remarks from many folks that  
19 have been following this issue for many  
20 years.

21 As you may know, Clean Ocean  
22 Action submitted detailed and technical  
23 comments already on the record, so my  
24 comments today are more general.

25 For 40 years, Clean Ocean Action

1 has successfully worked to improve and  
2 protect marine ecosystems in the New York and  
3 New Jersey region through grassroots  
4 action-based, fact-based campaigns. NESE is  
5 just one of them. After ten years of  
6 fighting, with thousands of people joining in  
7 this effort, this project was dead in the  
8 water, including thanks to the opposition of  
9 both governors of New York and New Jersey.

10           Unfortunately, recently, there  
11 was some political deals made, and NESE has  
12 been pulled back from the grave, which brings  
13 us here today. Before you, the Tidelands  
14 Resource Council, which has a remarkable and  
15 essential mandate to protect New Jersey's  
16 Tidelands for New Jersey's public interest.  
17 You have a unique superpower. Your  
18 legislative mandate, which is clear and  
19 direct, to protect New Jersey's public  
20 interest in the Tidelands.

21           And though you can consider New  
22 Jersey DEP recommendations, you're under no  
23 obligation. And by law, nothing can compel  
24 you to lease, grant, or license these  
25 extremely important, highly valued natural

1 public resources. So for those of us who  
2 cherish and value these wonderful waterways,  
3 you give us hope that you will protect New  
4 Jersey's public interest. That is because,  
5 it is strikingly clear, that NESE is not in  
6 New Jersey's public interest. There is a  
7 deep and documented record to that effect.

8           The fact is, NESE does the  
9 opposite, it destroys and will undermine much  
10 of the marine environment that we have worked  
11 so hard to protect. I am sure some of you  
12 remember that years ago, the Raritan Bay was  
13 once a dumping ground and a flushing zone for  
14 billions of gallons of raw sewage, industrial  
15 waste, garbage, Superfund materials, and the  
16 like. The waters were brown and eating fish  
17 was prohibited, and beaches were closed due  
18 to pathogens and garbage.

19           And thanks to thousands of people  
20 and citizens demanding action, billions of  
21 federal, state, and local dollars were  
22 invested, and these waters came back and  
23 they're now thriving. And was once an  
24 uncommon site, is now very common. Dolphins  
25 and whales in the lower bay. Bird watching,

1 seal watching, baymen and clammers in the  
2 waters at JT White Depuration Plant for  
3 clamming, they processed over 20 million  
4 clams last year.

5 There are hundreds of fishing  
6 boats. People are actually able to eat the  
7 fish they're catching due to less  
8 contaminants. And beaches in the Bayshore  
9 are packed with thousands of beach goers and  
10 swimmers, which is why every town along the  
11 northern Bayshore passed resolutions against  
12 NESE, including the commissioners of -- of  
13 Monmouth County.

14 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you,  
15 Cindy. Your three minutes are up. If you  
16 have final --

17 MS. CINDY ZIPF: I do. I do.  
18 Thank you. These millions of dollars that  
19 are now being generated because of a clean  
20 environment are at risk. And so we urge the  
21 Council to protect New Jersey's public  
22 interest and future by denying the NESE  
23 project application. Thank you.

24 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.  
25 The next speaker is Madison

1       Wurst.

2                       MS. MADISON WURST: Hello. I  
3 would like to correct the record that I am  
4 with Clean Ocean Action, not Clean Water  
5 Action. Right.

6                       So for my statement, my name is  
7 Madison Wurst. I am Clean Ocean's Action's  
8 ocean policy advocate. And as Cindy  
9 mentioned before me, we -- Clean Ocean Action  
10 builds grassroots coalitions of citizens to  
11 unite and empower their voices to defend the  
12 marine ecosystem. And in doing so, in  
13 opposition to the -- to Transco's NESE  
14 pipeline, Clean Ocean Action reached out to  
15 those who could not attend this meeting due  
16 to work or other limitations, with the  
17 expectation of submitting those comments to  
18 the Tidelands council.

19                      However, after only having one  
20 comment period open for a little over a week  
21 with a dedicated e-mail, the DEP and Attorney  
22 General decided not to reopen another written  
23 comment period.

24                      In the time since the one and  
25 only one week comment period closed, we have

1 collected 115 statements of opposition. So  
2 in my time today, I am representing over 100  
3 concerned citizens and elected officials who  
4 are unable to come out and speak today, and  
5 will do my best to express their demands that  
6 the Tidelands Council deny this utility  
7 license.

8 Two elected officials wrote to  
9 us, the mayor of South Brunswick, Charles  
10 Carley, and Rumson Council President John  
11 Conklin. The mayor of South Brunswick speaks  
12 to his residents who will be impacted by  
13 Compressor Station 206, and the  
14 insufficiencies in the air permits that will  
15 cause them harm.

16 Council President Conklin speaks  
17 to the impacts to water quality in the  
18 Raritan Bay, which will spread throughout the  
19 watershed to the Shrewsbury and Navesink  
20 Rivers, harming public health, economic  
21 prosperity, and marine ecosystems.

22 Additionally, a lifelong  
23 commercial fisherman from the Raritan Bay,  
24 Roy Deal, warned that this pipeline would  
25 damage natural clam beds and disrupt fish

1 migration, directly threatening both  
2 commercial and recreational fishing  
3 livelihoods.

4 Richard Longback, environmental  
5 scientist and medical doctor who studies the  
6 adverse effects of chemical pollutants,  
7 highlighted the significant threats to New  
8 Jersey's coastal resources and public health  
9 issues associated with the project.

10 Ella Ryan, a New York resident,  
11 spoke to the lack of need and demand for gas  
12 -- for this gas in New York, a sentiment  
13 shared by many New Yorkers who have been  
14 betrayed by their governor.

15 The past commodore of the Keyport  
16 Yacht Club, Ann Quinn, spoke to the  
17 recreational opportunities and use that will  
18 be sacrificed by this project due to the  
19 degradation of water quality of the Raritan  
20 Bay Watershed.

21 Captain John F. Kolias [ph], a  
22 resident of New Jersey for over 70 years, and  
23 someone who has fished the waters of Raritan  
24 Bay since he was six years old, stressed the  
25 devastating, negative financial impacts to



1 the businesses in Monmouth County, including  
2 his own.

3 Pamela Carlson has lived, raised  
4 her sons, fished, swam, and boated on the  
5 Raritan Bay, and over the years, has fought  
6 to clean up and ensure a safe bay for their  
7 grandchildren and all the creatures who call  
8 it home.

9 The only thing I came across in  
10 all these comments is that the people love  
11 the land, waterways, and marine life of this  
12 region. They love New Jersey. They fish  
13 here, raise families here, teach their  
14 children to sail here, and have spent decades  
15 working to protect and restore these waters.

16 So we are calling on the members  
17 of the Tidelands Council to protect those  
18 deeply loved New Jersey interests by not  
19 providing Williams Transco this license for  
20 the NESE pipeline. I want to stress that I  
21 am not a single speaker, and there are many  
22 voices of people asking you clearly and  
23 urgently to deny the NESE pipeline, despite  
24 them not being able to be here today. Thank  
25 you.

1 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.  
2 The next speaker is Taylor  
3 McFarland.

4 MS. TAYLOR MCFARLAND: Good  
5 morning, Members of the Tidelands Resource  
6 Council. My name is Taylor McFarland, and  
7 I'm the conservation program manager for the  
8 Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter, on behalf of  
9 tens of thousands of members across the  
10 state, we strongly urge this council to vote  
11 no on the Tidelands license for NESE.

12 NESE would cut through New  
13 Jersey's Tidelands and Raritan Bay, along  
14 with Cheesequake Creek, causing irreparable  
15 damage to thousands of acres of state-owned  
16 tidelands that serve as vital natural buffers  
17 against flooding and pollution.

18 Raritan Bay and Cheesequake were  
19 at the epicenter of Superstorm Sandy's most  
20 extreme impacts in New Jersey. The  
21 combination of a 14-foot storm surge and  
22 record-breaking high tides overwhelmed these  
23 low-lying areas, illustrating both their  
24 vulnerability and their vital protection  
25 function.

1                   The Tidelands of Raritan Bay and  
2                   Cheesequake Creek serve as a critical first  
3                   line of defense during Superstorm Sandy by  
4                   absorbing energy and strong vast amounts of  
5                   flood water. They kept most of the  
6                   destructive force of the water away from the  
7                   hard infrastructure, likely preventing more  
8                   catastrophic collapses of buildings,  
9                   foundations, in low-lying Middlesex County  
10                  communities.

11                  The Raritan Bay is finally  
12                  recovering after decades of industrial  
13                  pollution, but this product would dig a  
14                  massive 23-mile trench through the bay floor,  
15                  stirring up more than a million tons of mud  
16                  conta -- contaminated with mercury and lead.

17                  As a resident of Keyport, I am  
18                  already facing a serious health crisis, the  
19                  old Aeromarine Landfill is a toxic site that  
20                  is currently leaking chemicals, like arsenic  
21                  and lead, into the bay.

22                  The NESE pipeline would be  
23                  constructed in close proximity to this site,  
24                  and we are deeply concerned that heavy  
25                  construction and dredging will disturb the

1 area and even cause more toxins to leak into  
2 the water.

3 The people of Keyport have  
4 endured enough. They shouldn't have to worry  
5 that a pipeline construction project for New  
6 York is making their water even more dam --  
7 dangerous. The resuspension of toxic  
8 sediments and destruction of the national  
9 landscape threaten the 9 billion tourism  
10 industry and the New Jersey Bayshore. This  
11 includes potential losses for marinas,  
12 recreation boaters, and visitors to  
13 Cheesequake State Park.

14 Tidelands also act as a natural  
15 flood buffer. So degrading these habitats  
16 through pipeline trenching could undermine  
17 their ability to protect coastal property,  
18 which is valued at billions in Monmouth and  
19 Middlesex Counties.

20 As a council, you must determine  
21 whether the proposed project serves a  
22 beneficial public purpose. If it creates a  
23 positive impact on the public and the  
24 environment, rather than solely benefiting  
25 private interests. NESE clearly fails to

1 serve as a benefit -- beneficial public  
2 purpose. New Jersey will not receive any of  
3 the gas for the project, instead we will be  
4 dealing with public, environmental, and  
5 economic impacts.

6 The Tidelands Resource Council  
7 must exercise its authority to protect our  
8 shared resources. We ask you to prioritize  
9 the people in the environment of New Jersey  
10 by denying this license. Thank you.

11 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

12 The next speaker is Rachel Dawn  
13 Davis.

14 MS. RACHEL DAWN DAVIS: I am  
15 Rachel Dawn Davis, speaking on behalf of  
16 Water Spirit, a spiritual ecology nonprofit,  
17 rooted in Monmouth County since 1998,  
18 offering programming and advocacy  
19 opportunities centered on water, as a source  
20 and sustainer of all life.

21 We've provided written comments  
22 and we speak on behalf of our thousands of  
23 community members, as well as in --  
24 solidarity with all those in New York and New  
25 Jersey, all the residents who, after ten

1 years, still do not want this dirty,  
2 unnecessary NESE project.

3 Water Spirit is grounded in  
4 principles of the interconnectedness of all  
5 life, and our profound responsibility to  
6 protect the essential, sacred element of  
7 water. We urge the Council to act with the  
8 long-term vision required upon its stewards  
9 and deny Tidelands Utility License in this  
10 instance.

11 The TRC is charged with managing  
12 lands that belong to all residents of New  
13 Jersey. A fundamental requirement for any  
14 grant or lease of these lands is a clear  
15 demonstration of a compelling public need.  
16 The proposal in question serves a narrow  
17 private interest, not serving New Jersey  
18 residents whatsoever, rather than a broad  
19 benefit to any New Jersey community to  
20 devastate public riparian lands for a project  
21 that does not serve the general welfare is a  
22 violation of the Council's duty.

23 Approving this application would  
24 then represent an infringement on the TRC's  
25 mission. As Pope Francis reminds us in his

1 last encyclical, quote, each community can  
2 take from the bounty of the earth whatever it  
3 needs for its existence, but it also has a  
4 duty to protect the earth and to ensure its  
5 fruitfulness for coming generations, end  
6 quote.

7 This is a moral issue. The  
8 Council is a guardian of the state's  
9 ecological heritage, which also has spiritual  
10 value. We must view the Tidelands, not as a  
11 commodity to be partitioned, but as a gift to  
12 be shared and protected. New Jersey has been  
13 under a statewide prolonged drought warning  
14 for almost two years and count. Permitting  
15 this proposed water-intensive project that  
16 could cause fires would imperil the future  
17 use of the tidelands by degrading the local  
18 ecosystem and restricting public access for  
19 generations to come.

20 A Princeton hydro study from 2019  
21 regarding this very same proposal showed the  
22 bioaccumulation effects are not being  
23 considered. That study highlights, quote,  
24 Transco's modeling would need to include  
25 commercial and recreational fish, as well as

1 other species, before it could -- it could be  
2 a comprehensive assessment of bioaccumulation  
3 effects, end quote.

4 What about the workers? When we  
5 diminish the integrity of any ecosystem, we  
6 diminish the rights of the people who depend  
7 on the same. The New Jersey Tidelands  
8 Council and State of New Jersey, you must  
9 deny this utility license based upon the  
10 extent of projected environmental harm,  
11 economic loss, public health risks, and the  
12 loss of our safe public waters. The only  
13 path forward is prevention.

14 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

15 The next speaker is Matt Gove.  
16 Is Matt Gove here?

17 All right. The next speaker is  
18 Rupali Chakravati. Is Rupali Chakravati  
19 here?

20 The next speaker is Carol Kuehn.  
21 Is Carol Kuehn here?

22 MS. CAROL KUEHN: Yes, I am here.  
23 Good after -- good morning. And thank you  
24 for holding this hearing and for the  
25 opportunity to testify.



1                   My name is Carol Kuehn, and I'd  
2     like to correct the record, I am not from  
3     Princeton Manor. I am a resident and  
4     impacted landowner in Franklin Township,  
5     where Williams Transco intends to build  
6     Compressor Station 206 as part of their NESE  
7     project.

8                   As a member of our Township's  
9     task force against NESE, I have been working  
10    with a broad coalition of organizations and  
11    individuals for the past ten years to stop  
12    this destructive and polluting project.

13                  A TRC must determine if NESE is  
14    in the public interest of New Jersey, and the  
15    answer is a resounding no for a myriad of  
16    reasons. Foremost among these, is that all  
17    of the gas will go to New York, and New  
18    Jersey will be left holding a bag full of  
19    detrimental impacts to our air, water, and  
20    land, including the financial burden to our  
21    taxpayers of risks associated with the  
22    infrastructure and the future cleanup expense  
23    NESE will require.

24                  Further, Tidelands Utility  
25    License should be denied for the degradation

1 of water quality trenching 23 miles of sea  
2 floor and building a 26-inch diameter  
3 pipeline would cause, posing a serious danger  
4 to human health, marine wildlife, and the  
5 shore economy.

6 I am old enough to remember how  
7 terribly polluted Raritan Bay was in the  
8 1970s from industrial dumping. The  
9 resuspension of these very toxic sediments by  
10 seabed drilling will undo years of  
11 rehabilitation.

12 Governor Sherrill, I heard your  
13 inspiring speech in Princeton on No Kings  
14 Day. You've made incredible strides in  
15 opposing detrimental, Trump-inspired  
16 incursions into our state-related  
17 transportation infrastructure, voting rights,  
18 immigration, and other areas of concern.

19 In conjunction with the TRC and  
20 NJDEP, please extend that opposition to  
21 include protecting our environment, health,  
22 safety, economy, and well-being by denying a  
23 Tidelands Utility License for NESE.

24 Thank you for your time and  
25 consideration of my concerns.

1 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

2 At this time, we will take a  
3 five-minute short break. We will resume at  
4 11:10.

5 (Remote meeting recessed at 11:05  
6 a.m. and resumed at 11:10 a.m.)

7 MS. MARILA XIE: We are now  
8 resuming our meeting. The next speaker is  
9 Leslie Mangold. Is there a Leslie Mangold?

10 The next speaker is Donna Player.  
11 Do we have a Donna Player?

12 The next speaker is Greg Remaud.  
13 Is there a Greg Remaud?

14 MR. GREG REMAUD: Hi. I am Greg  
15 Remaud, executive of New York/New Jersey  
16 Baykeeper. I would like to thank the Council  
17 for the opportunity to speak this -- this  
18 morning.

19 If constructed, the NESE pipeline  
20 would impact wildlife and human communities  
21 across the State of New Jersey, simply to  
22 transfer fracked gas from Pennsylvania to New  
23 York. There are no benefits to New Jersey  
24 residents, but there will be significant  
25 environmental impacts. NESE would run 23

1 miles across Raritan Bay destroying what  
2 little subaquatic habitat that supports  
3 hundreds of fish and bird species and marine  
4 life species, including clams, bunker,  
5 flounder, black skimmers, egrets, osprey, and  
6 other wildlife, from the bottom of the food  
7 chain up to the top. And, of course, that  
8 means people who are eating them, and this is  
9 a fishing hot spot. So there's public health  
10 at risk as well.

11 To get specific about the  
12 location of the NESE pipeline, I heard  
13 references to not being near contamination, I  
14 guess you can say anything in those reports,  
15 but NESE is going right next to a Superfund  
16 site, the Raritan Bay lead slide site. \$152  
17 million was just spent on remediating that  
18 site, which is what, maybe a half mile or  
19 quarter mile away from where NESE hits land.  
20 So it won't be the first time, but DEP seems  
21 to be contradicting itself when they are  
22 spending money monthly, and then bringing up  
23 a pipeline that is known to churn up metals,  
24 contaminants, mercury, copper, right next to  
25 a site where we just spent that money to

1 clean it.

2 The landslide construction also  
3 is along Cheesequake Creek. Cheesequake  
4 Creek is one of the state's natural wonders,  
5 as is Raritan Bay. Baykeeper worked with the  
6 Department of Environmental Protection, Green  
7 Acres, the Cheesequake State Park staff to  
8 purchase properties to buffer the park.

9 But the most -- the prize  
10 property was the CMK property, which was  
11 wetlands along Cheesequake Creek. The DEP,  
12 as well as other environmental agencies,  
13 found that to be extraordinary habitat that  
14 supports much of the wildlife I've listed  
15 before, without going into it, along with  
16 additional wildlife.

17 Cheesequake Creek is to be  
18 amazing -- or is part of the amazing  
19 migration of glass eel; tiny, transparent  
20 eels that make their way all the way from the  
21 Sargasso Sea up to Cheesequake Creek and into  
22 the park.

23 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you, Greg.  
24 Your three minutes are up. If you have  
25 a final --

1 MR. GREG REMAUD: Thank you. So  
2 the last point I will make on that, is that  
3 along with thousands of people who fish there  
4 every year and in this area, and people who  
5 crab in the area, both Cheesequake State Park  
6 and Baykeeper lead kayak trips up through  
7 Cheesequake Creek, and other people go on  
8 their own. So all this to say, clearly the  
9 Council should deny this permit for NESE.  
10 Thank you.

11 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.  
12 The next speaker is Susan  
13 Mikitas.

14 MS. SUSAN MIKITAS: Good morning.  
15 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.  
16 My name is Susan Mikitas, and I live in  
17 Atlantic Highlands. I am opposed to the  
18 proposed NESE pipeline for the following  
19 reasons: Is this proposed project in the  
20 public interest? The answer is no. Digging  
21 a trench for the pipeline would disturb over  
22 1 million cubic yards of contaminated  
23 sediment, potentially releasing heavy metals  
24 and toxic chemicals, like PCBs into the  
25 water.

1                   The potential resuspension of  
2                   toxic substances now buried under the sea  
3                   floor is one of the most serious impacts of  
4                   this proposed pipeline construction on the  
5                   water quality in Raritan Bay. These toxins  
6                   pose a serious threat to both human health  
7                   and marine wildlife.

8                   Is this proposed project in the  
9                   public interest? The answer is no. Williams  
10                  Transco plans to release water used in  
11                  testing the pipeline into the bay. Their  
12                  plan involved releasing 3.2 million gallons  
13                  of seawater treated with the toxic chemical  
14                  CORRTREAT 15316, a highly toxic substance  
15                  harmful to humans, according to the EPA.

16                  Is this proposed project in the  
17                  public interest? The answer is no. I have  
18                  been sailing on Raritan Bay for over 40 years  
19                  and have watched the bay slowly recover from  
20                  the pollution caused by previous industrial  
21                  corporations that used the bay as their  
22                  dumping site. Enormous amounts of taxpayer  
23                  money have been spent on cleaning up this  
24                  Superfund site.

25                  Part of the proposed Raritan Bay

1 Loop would go through the Raritan Bay slag  
2 Superfund site. Lead, arsenic, antimony,  
3 copper, iron, and chromium are the primary  
4 contaminants in the slag. Are you willing to  
5 allow Williams Transco to undo the progress  
6 that has been made?

7 Once again, I ask, is this  
8 proposed project in the public interest? The  
9 answer is no. New Jersey receives no benefit  
10 whatsoever from this proposed pipeline, but  
11 New Jersey would take on all the risks.  
12 Therefore, I urge you to deny the Tidelands  
13 license once and for all. Thank you for your  
14 time.

15 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you. The  
16 next speaker is Kip Cherry.

17 MR. KIP CHERRY: My name is Kip  
18 Cherry. I'm conservation chair for the  
19 Central Group of the Sierra Club, New Jersey.

20 Transco has applied for a  
21 Tidelands Utility License for the Cheesequake  
22 tributary and Raritan Bay, Sayreville  
23 Borough, Middlesex County. Please note that  
24 the Tidelands Council, in the best interest  
25 of the state, did previously disapprove this



1 project.

2 Tidelands and Raritan Bay are  
3 held in trust by the State of New Jersey for  
4 the interest of its citizens, protecting our  
5 marine resources and the water quality of the  
6 tidelands is critically important. At the  
7 same time, not only do we not need this  
8 pipeline, because we don't need the fracked  
9 gas from it and don't want the pollution  
10 caused by fracking, but it will,  
11 nevertheless, be a source of toxic pollution  
12 in both tidelands and non-tidelands alike, as  
13 methane leaks from the pipeline and toxic  
14 emissions are discharged by its compressor  
15 stations in Pennsylvania, New York, and here  
16 in New Jersey.

17 None of the pipeline gas --  
18 pipeline gas will be used in New Jersey while  
19 the supply of natural gas, at its destination  
20 on Long Island, is already adequate to meet  
21 the need.

22 Transco plans to use horizontal  
23 directional drilling to insert this NESE  
24 pipeline down through the Raritan Bay,  
25 through a still-polluted section that

1 includes the Superfund site known as the  
2 Raritan Bay slag Superfund site in  
3 Sayreville, Old Bridge.

4 This area contains lead slag and  
5 requires ongoing remediation. Toxins buried  
6 in the seabed will be resuspended and flushed  
7 towards the New Jersey shore, and then slowly  
8 returned to the ocean along the Bay Shore.

9 Stirred up will be an estimated  
10 one million tons of toxic sediment, including  
11 PCBs, dioxins, lead, methylmercury,  
12 petrochemicals, and arsenic, polluting both  
13 the bay and ocean and destroying ecosystems  
14 of the tidelands.

15 Further, as Transco trenches and  
16 dredges to lay the pipeline using toxic  
17 drilling fluids and new lubricants, toxic  
18 chemicals will be released into waters that  
19 support the vulnerable commercial and  
20 recreational shellfish beds of the Bayshore,  
21 as well as other marine life.

22 This pipeline will severely  
23 impact the bayshore. It will have a severely  
24 negative impact on the seabed, the benefit  
25 communities, particularly oyster and clam

1 colonies, and the health of the entire marine  
2 ecosystem. It will also impact its fishing  
3 and its popular beaches and the coastal  
4 economy it supports.

5 Its impacts will also get into  
6 our food chain and severely damage the  
7 economic opportunities achieved by the more  
8 than 50 years of cleaning up Raritan Bay.  
9 Those who rely on these waters for economic  
10 opportunities will be heavily impacted, as  
11 well tourism, and those just drawn to the  
12 natural landscape.

13 Based upon the extensive  
14 environmental and economic damage from the  
15 loss of this public resource, we again ask  
16 the Council members to vote no. Thank you  
17 very much.

18 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

19 The next speaker is Danielle  
20 McCulloch. Is there a Danielle McCulloch?

21 The next speaker is Charlie  
22 Kratovil.

23 MR. CHARLIE KRATOVIL: Good  
24 morning, Council. My name is Charlie  
25 Kratovil. I'm the Central Jersey organizer

1 with Food and Water Watch. Mr. Greenhouse  
2 made great remarks, so I'm not going to  
3 repeat what he said, but I do have two very  
4 quick questions.

5 How many members of the Council  
6 are present and how many yes votes are  
7 required to approve this?

8 MR. RANDY BEARCE: There are six  
9 members present, and six are required for a  
10 quorum for approval.

11 MR. CHARLIE KRATOVIL:  
12 Understood. Thank you for answering my  
13 questions.

14 You know, I do want to keep it  
15 simple. I respect the Council for your  
16 volunteer public service here. I know these  
17 decisions are often not easy decisions, but  
18 today you do have an easy decision to make.

19 The question before you is  
20 whether this project is in the public  
21 interest of New Jersey, and the answer is  
22 clearly, it is not. None of the gas will  
23 serve New Jersey. We only take the  
24 negatives; the risk of fire, explosion,  
25 pollution, and damage to our waterways. So

1 this council is fully empowered, any of the  
2 six members here today, will be fully  
3 empowered to give a "no" vote and put a stop  
4 to this madness.

5 I do want to raise a  
6 consideration here. The presentation from  
7 staff implied that the gas would be going to,  
8 quote, the National Grid. I just want to  
9 clarify. We don't have a National Grid for,  
10 you know, methane gas. The National Grid is  
11 a British multinational electricity and gas  
12 utility company, and they are a private  
13 corporation. Their interests are not aligned  
14 with the State of New Jersey.

15 So serving that multinational  
16 corporation does not equate with the public  
17 interest of New Jersey. So since this  
18 project serves only National Grid, it does  
19 not serve the public interest of New Jersey.  
20 So I would I respectfully ask the Council to  
21 vote no, deny this utility license. Listen  
22 to the people who are speaking up and  
23 speaking out and have been speaking out  
24 against this for over a decade now.

25 You can do the right thing today,

1 if just one of you will vote no, we will have  
2 done a great thing today. That is all.  
3 Thank you.

4 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Randy, I  
5 just wanted to let you know that we have  
6 seven council members present. Mr. Challoner  
7 has come in.

8 MR. RANDY BEARCE: When did you  
9 arrive, Mr. Challoner? Is he there?

10 MS. ZOE BALDWIN: While we are  
11 waiting -- this is Council Member Baldwin.  
12 While we are waiting for folks to get back,  
13 perhaps it would be helpful if staff  
14 reiterated the parameters of our  
15 decision-making ability on the Council.

16 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Zoe, are  
17 you asking what factors we have to consider  
18 in making a decision?

19 MS. ZOE BALDWIN: Yes, that was  
20 not explicitly stated, and it seems to be a  
21 point of confusion for a lot of people  
22 testifying. So I just wanted to make clear  
23 -- make sure that the public and the -- you  
24 know, anyone on the call understood kind of  
25 how we're approaching this decision today.

1 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: So when we  
2 decide whether to convey tidelands, we have  
3 to consider, is the conveyance a public  
4 necessity; have the environmental impacts  
5 been adequately considered and addressed; is  
6 fair market being received for the  
7 conveyance; does the state have a need for  
8 the property that we are conveying; and does  
9 the project pose an impediment to navigation?

10 They are the factors that we are  
11 obligated to consider under the law and  
12 regulations that give us the authority to  
13 sell and lease state-owned tidelands.

14 MR. STUART CHALLONER: This is  
15 Stuart Challoner, your question to me  
16 regarding when I got on. I got on at 10:06.  
17 I had problems logging in. So I was a couple  
18 of minutes.

19 MR. RANDY BEARCE: So your heard  
20 the full presentation so far?

21 MR. STUART CHALLONER: I heard  
22 your presentation in the beginning and all  
23 the testimony after.

24 MR. RANDY BEARCE: You didn't  
25 vote on the meeting minutes, but you heard

1 all of the Transco matter?

2 MR. STUART CHALLONER: That is  
3 correct.

4 MR. RANDY BEARCE: Okay. Thank  
5 you for clarifying that. So we have seven  
6 council members who have been present for the  
7 entire Transco matter.

8 MS. MARILA XIE: Okay. The next  
9 speaker is Linda Powell.

10 MS. LINDA POWELL: I am Linda  
11 Powell. Good morning, everyone, it's still  
12 morning. I'm a member of the Franklin  
13 Township Task Force on NESE and the Franklin  
14 Township Advisory Board of Health, of a  
15 healthcare professional, and in 2017, I was  
16 asked by the Township council to keep them  
17 informed of the public health hazards  
18 associated with the proposed gas power, gas  
19 Compressor Station 206.

20 I am also the health and air  
21 quality issues coordinator of the Raritan  
22 Valley Group of The New Jersey Sierra Club.

23 Through my research, I've learned  
24 that every system in the human body can be  
25 negatively impacted, and that increased



1 mortality rates and premature deaths were  
2 associated with pollutants from such a  
3 compressor station. Our air and water, our  
4 wetlands, wildlife, and habitat are  
5 threatened.

6 Construction of this pipeline  
7 would dredge up and resuspend toxins buried  
8 for decades, again contaminating our shores  
9 and waters. Recently, we have benefited from  
10 stricter environmental regulations and laws.

11 The waters of the Raritan Bay,  
12 lower New York Harbor, have been cleaned up  
13 since the high point of pollution in the  
14 '70s. The toxins from industrial dumping  
15 into the Hudson River and the bay, such as  
16 PCBs, dioxins, lead, and mercury now lie  
17 beneath the seabed. Obviously, they didn't  
18 know that they were crossing state lines, as  
19 the waters do.

20 Allowing this project -- I am  
21 sorry, I had to rewrite this to make it  
22 shorter, and now I am losing my space.

23 Construction of this pipeline  
24 would dredge up and resuspend these toxins  
25 buried for decades, again contaminating our

1 waters and shore.

2 Williams Transco plans to release  
3 3.2 million gallons of seawater treated with  
4 CORRTREAT 15316. A highly toxic -- I've been  
5 sick -- a highly toxic chemical harmful to  
6 humans and other forms, and other life forms.  
7 Its data safety sheets states, quote, this  
8 product should not be allowed to enter  
9 drains, water courses, or the soil.

10 Many New Jerseyans depend on the  
11 clean water and access to the Raritan Bay for  
12 their livelihood, and this pipeline certainly  
13 would not be in their interest. The Williams  
14 Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Project  
15 has changed very little in the past decade.  
16 It is the same project with a different FERC  
17 docket number that was denied by both the  
18 NJDEP and the NYSDEC in 2019, and again in  
19 2020, due to the damage it would do to our  
20 waters.

21 What has changed is that we have  
22 had some of the hottest summers on record,  
23 the coldest winters, forest fires, more  
24 frequent destructive storms, more flooding,  
25 and sea levels rising.

1 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you, Linda  
2 Powell. If you have a final sentence --

3 MS. LINDA POWELL: Yeah. I was  
4 just saying that allowing this project to go  
5 forward will damage our economy, our  
6 environment, and our health. The impacts on  
7 climate could lead to more flooding and  
8 damage and cost to people, municipalities,  
9 and the State of New Jersey.

10 The NESE Pipeline project will  
11 undo decades of work to clean up our waters.  
12 This project is certainly not in the public  
13 interest for residents of New Jersey. This  
14 is not a project of public need, but rather  
15 of corporate greed.

16 Please do your part, deny the  
17 Tidelands Utility License for NESE as this  
18 project is clearly not in the public  
19 interest. Thank you.

20 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.  
21 The next speaker is Patty  
22 Cronheim.

23 MS. PATTY CRONHEIM: Good  
24 morning. My name's Patty Cronheim. I'm the  
25 program director of ReThink Energy New

1 Jersey, a nonprofit promoting clean energy.  
2 And more importantly today, I think I am a  
3 fourth generation Monmouth County, Jersey  
4 Shore resident.

5 I want to thank you for the  
6 opportunity to speak today. I respectfully  
7 urge the New Jersey Tidelands Resource  
8 Council to deny this license because it would  
9 cause significant harm to the state's title  
10 ecosystems, shellfish resources, and public  
11 recreational waters, and it is in no way in  
12 the public interest.

13 I want to talk about  
14 contamination. We have all heard and we know  
15 that it would suspend about a million cubic  
16 tons of toxic sediment. That directly  
17 threatens commercial license clamming areas  
18 that are long managed in coordination with  
19 the NJDEP. Granting NESE a license would be  
20 in conflict and a threat to the existing  
21 clamming operation licenses that this very  
22 counsel has previously granted.

23 These clamming grounds represent  
24 years of cleanup and restoration efforts  
25 funded by millions of New Jersey taxpayer

1 dollars and billions of dollars, if you  
2 include the federal money.

3 Any project that would  
4 recontaminate this undermines the investment,  
5 and jeopardizes the livelihoods of New Jersey  
6 shellfish fishermen.

7 New Jersey's proposed coastline  
8 disposal of this toxic material would also  
9 further degrade coastal water quality,  
10 putting at risk the health of millions of New  
11 Jersey residents and tourists. Personally, I  
12 surf these waters all year around, with my  
13 dog Charlie, and I am deeply worried and  
14 concerned about how easily sediment pollution  
15 translate into unsafe water conditions. And  
16 I monitor the water, and I know this is a  
17 real issue to have clean water in our state.

18 And in terms of the wetlands,  
19 well, we all know how important wetlands is  
20 to prevent flooding. I've submitted this  
21 testimony, written testimony, along with a  
22 Princeton Hydro report submitted by Eastern  
23 Environmental Law Center, and -- back in  
24 2019, that clearly shows that the wetland  
25 disturbed soils are acid sulfate clays. When

1 you expose and trenched through these,  
2 regrowth doesn't happen. You can see this  
3 with the existing Williams Transco right of  
4 way from the previous pipeline.

5 As a Jersey shore resident, who  
6 has weathered many storms, I know firsthand  
7 the importance of maintaining healthy  
8 wetlands and -- and tidelands to prevent the  
9 ever increasing risk of flooding, and we know  
10 this is a major NJDEP priority.

11 For all these reasons, NESE  
12 project conflicts with state environmental  
13 and resource management objectives. It could  
14 compromise ongoing cleanup programs, threaten  
15 public health, and irreversibly damage title  
16 habitats that are under increasing threat  
17 from sea level rise and vitals New Jersey's  
18 coastal resilience.

19 Lastly, I'd like to point out,  
20 for the record, and you might here otherwise  
21 today from some business folks, I'd like to  
22 point out that NESE, an expensive, dirty,  
23 methane gas project that would lock us into  
24 more fossil fuel emissions for decades to  
25 come, NESE is a prime example -- of how

1 energy should not be built at our expense for  
2 the benefit of large load users and data  
3 centers.

4 Multiple studies in the State of  
5 New York has shown that NESE is not needed  
6 for New York rate payers, but they're footing  
7 the bill, and we here in New Jersey are  
8 paying with our health, our safety, and our  
9 environment. Williams Transco --

10 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you,  
11 Patty.

12 MS. PATTY CRONHEIM: I was just  
13 like to add, the one thing that stuck with  
14 me, because you're going to say -- have the  
15 last statement -- is that for this privilege,  
16 for all this pollution and locking us into  
17 fossil fuels for unneeded pipeline, Williams  
18 Transco get to pay \$14,084, and that just, as  
19 a New Jersey resident, a Jersey shore  
20 resident, sticks in my craw, and I  
21 respectfully request that the Council and  
22 Governor Sherrill deny the proposed license  
23 for the Williams Transco Northeast Supply  
24 project. Thank you for your time and  
25 consideration.

1 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.  
2 The next speaker is Milena  
3 Bimpong.

4 MS. MILENA BIMPONG: Good  
5 morning. My name is Milena Bimpong, and I am  
6 commenting today on behalf of the New Jersey  
7 League of Conservation Voters.

8 We urge the Tidelands Resource  
9 Council to deny the issuance of the Tidelands  
10 license for Williams Transco's Northeast  
11 Supply Enhancement project. And the  
12 Tidelands Resource Council does not have all  
13 of the necessary information that they need  
14 to make a decision on the issuance of this  
15 license today.

16 The issuance of this license is  
17 not in the public's interest under any  
18 circumstances, as this project is a danger to  
19 public health and the quality of our waters.  
20 We have over 20 towns located near the area  
21 of the proposed pipeline who are opposed to  
22 the project because it is not in the public  
23 interest of their residents and would have  
24 harmful economic impacts.

25 Additionally, many of these towns



1 have significant populations that are  
2 classified as overburdened communities, per  
3 DEP criteria. This proposed pipeline would  
4 have harmful impacts on overburdened  
5 communities, and the DEP has a responsibility  
6 to deny licenses and permits for proposed  
7 projects that would disproportionately affect  
8 overburdened communities.

9 Under New Jersey law, the DEP has  
10 a duty to protect the quality of our waters.  
11 This includes preventing projects that  
12 degrade color, clarity, temperature, or odor  
13 or introduce oils, chemicals, or other  
14 contaminants. Williams Transco has not  
15 demonstrated that the construction of this  
16 pipeline would cut through the Raritan Bay  
17 and lower New York Bay, which would threaten  
18 fragile marine ecosystems.

19 Construction would also disturb  
20 contaminated sediments, further jeopardizing  
21 water quality that our communities rely on.  
22 In addition, this project poses grave threats  
23 to the economic, fishing, and recreational  
24 value of the Raritan Bay.

25 Beyond environmental impacts,

1     this project poses serious economic risks.  
2     We also have concerns about property values  
3     and economic impact to our communities,  
4     should construction move forward. For these  
5     reasons, we strongly urge you to deny the  
6     issuance of Williams Transco's license.  
7     Protecting our waters, communities, and  
8     economy must remain a top priority. Thank  
9     you.

10                   MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.  
11                   The next speaker is Diane Heyer.

12                   MS. DIANE HEYER: Thank you so  
13     much for letting us speak at this hearing.  
14     My name is Diane Heyer, and I live in  
15     Highgate Manor in Kendall Park, and I am also  
16     speaking for the people in my development  
17     here, in Highgate Manor.

18                   We all will be living one mile --  
19     I just wanted to say, from the gas Compressor  
20     Station 206 as well. The Northeast Supply  
21     Enhancement fossil fuel infrastructure  
22     project fails to serve the public interest.  
23     It will cause irreparable damage to Raritan  
24     Bay's benthic ecosystem, will disrupt toxic,  
25     long-buried contaminants, thereby violating

1 clean water standards and threatened public  
2 trust and state-owned coastal lands for the  
3 following reasons.

4           Number 1, irreparable  
5 environmental damage. The construction would  
6 disrupt over 23 miles of seabed in the  
7 Raritan Bay, harming shellfish beds and  
8 marine resources.

9           Number 2, resuspension of toxin  
10 dredging threatens -- threatens to stir up  
11 toxic contaminants, copper and mercury, from  
12 the EPA-listed Raritan Slag Superfund site,  
13 threatening water quality.

14           Number 3, failure of public  
15 interest test. Opponents argue the pipeline  
16 serves New York energy needs while leaving  
17 New Jersey with only environmental risks,  
18 violating the requirement that tidelands  
19 usage must be in the public interest.

20           Number 4, inconsistency with  
21 previous denials. Critics argue the proposal  
22 is largely unchanged from previous  
23 submissions that were officially rejected for  
24 failing to meet water quality standards.

25           And finally, number 5, threat to

1 coastal habitats. The project will destroy  
2 wetlands and marine habitat, harming coastal  
3 ecosystems and public recreational resources,  
4 such as areas near Cheesequake Park, which I  
5 have fond memories of as a child.

6 The Tidelands Resource Council's  
7 job is to protect the state's ecological and  
8 public health interest, rather than allowing  
9 a private corporation to use state-owned land  
10 for the installation of high-risk fossil fuel  
11 infrastructure, bordering on environmental  
12 disaster. Also, Williams is known for its  
13 bad safety record.

14 This project is wholly  
15 unnecessary to New Jersey, which will get  
16 nothing from it except water and air  
17 pollution. The supporting Gas Compressor  
18 206, which will be built right next to active  
19 dyna-mining Trap Rock Quarry, will disrupt --  
20 will disrupt the lives of many people,  
21 businesses, religious venues, schools, et  
22 cetera.

23 I am sure you wouldn't want a gas  
24 compressor built in your backyard. Also,  
25 this has nothing to do with the permit we are

1 talking about, but I just want to remind  
2 people as well, that this is an insult. And  
3 this project is all about money over the  
4 quality of life.

5 And guess what, if more projects  
6 like this keep happening, there will be no  
7 planet to live on and no place to spend the  
8 money extracted from it. The many effects of  
9 climate change, such as sea level rise, ocean  
10 warming, and ice sheet melting, are  
11 considered irreversible on human time scales,  
12 centuries to millennia, while air  
13 temperatures could stabilize shortly after  
14 greenhouse gas emissions cease, the damage  
15 already done persists with potential for  
16 further catastrophic, uncontrollable changes  
17 if critical tipping points are breached.

18 So NJDEP and Governor Sherrill, I  
19 am asking you to please do your job, and  
20 please deny this permit with prejudice. It  
21 is your job to protect our health and climate  
22 for future generations to come. And so far,  
23 you have failed to do so by approving their  
24 air and water permits. Again, New Jersey  
25 gets nothing out of this project but

1 pollution, and is not in the public interest.  
2 Thank you.

3 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you. The  
4 next speaker is Jenna Reynolds. Is Jenna  
5 Reynolds here?

6 The next speaker is Louise  
7 Usechak.

8 MS. LOUISE USECHAK: I am  
9 speaking on behalf of League of Women Voters  
10 of New Jersey and the 300 members of The  
11 Monmouth County League on whose board I  
12 serve. We have long-held positions  
13 protecting public health and the environment,  
14 and deep concerns about Transco's NESE  
15 pipeline.

16 New York does not need this  
17 energy, and electric cable is about to bring  
18 the city up to 20 percent of its electric  
19 needs, from Canadian hydroelectric power.  
20 Empire Wind will help too. Toxic emissions  
21 from NESE's compressor station will create a  
22 public health crisis in Central New Jersey.

23 Digging and backfilling a trench  
24 out Raritan Bay will resuspend thousands of  
25 tons of deadly toxins now sequestered under

1 the sea floor. With the unique currents and  
2 title flow in the bay, it will take up to  
3 three years for toxins to settle down,  
4 suffocating benthic communities,  
5 contaminating the marine food chain,  
6 impacting fish migrations and marine mammals,  
7 and degrading coastal marshes along the  
8 northern coast of Monmouth County, way beyond  
9 where the pipeline actually goes. In  
10 Middlesex County too.

11 We have spent 50 years bringing  
12 this bay back from a near-dead zone to its  
13 current biodiversity. Thousands of jobs now  
14 depend on its health. NESE will negatively  
15 impact the economies of Monmouth County in  
16 New Jersey by reducing tourism dollars to New  
17 Jersey. 50.6 billion were received in 2024.

18 Inbound tides will bring the  
19 resuspended toxins into the shore from the --  
20 as they sweep in more heavily from the  
21 northern part of the bay. The Raritan River  
22 turns the water to flow out, sluggishly, over  
23 16 to 21 days, along the bay's rugged  
24 southern shoreline and its marshes.

25 Keansburg gets its drinking water

1 from the bay. Tidelands marshes are crucial  
2 nurseries for the bay, incubating fish eggs,  
3 crabs, marine life, providing foraging and  
4 nesting for wildlife and birds and helping to  
5 maintain the health of the bay.

6           Once a marsh edge is broken, it  
7 gets increasingly undercut and its platform  
8 sluffs away. The infrastructure sinks in  
9 marsh areas. And this pipeline will also go  
10 through acid soils. Once exposed to air,  
11 they may be unable to revegetate. These  
12 damages could pave the way for a catastrophic  
13 loss of these marshes in the future. We need  
14 them to provide climate resilience, to  
15 mitigate sea-level rises and storm damage,  
16 protect the biodiversity and food sources of  
17 the bay, and the marine life it now supports,  
18 without poisoning it.

19           With climate change and a  
20 degraded bay, an algal bloom could occur  
21 with -- along with other challenges,  
22 preventing us from ever restoring the bay to  
23 its current health. Tidelands are held in  
24 trust by New Jersey for our residents'  
25 benefit. This pipeline brings no benefit.



1                   We urge you to deny Transco's  
2                   request for a Tidelands license. And thank  
3                   you for this opportunity to comment.

4                   MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

5                   The next speaker is Tom Yorke.

6                   Is Tom Yorke here?

7                   The next speaker is Andrew

8                   Provence. Is Andrew Provence here?

9                   We will move on to the speakers  
10                  who have messaged in chat, then.

11                  MR. ANDREW PROVENCE: I am here.

12                  Good morning. My name is Andy Provence. I  
13                  am a life-long resident and duly a licensed  
14                  attorney in the State of New Jersey. I  
15                  practice environmental law with a focus on  
16                  Ocean protection and land conservation. I'd  
17                  like to raise two points regarding the  
18                  Council's lack of authority to grant this  
19                  license.

20                  First, is the public trust  
21                  doctrine. In New Jersey, Tidelands are held  
22                  in trust by the state for the benefit of the  
23                  people of New Jersey. And as the speaker's  
24                  have -- before me have said, there is no  
25                  public benefit to the residents of New Jersey

1 of this application, only harms. The gas is  
2 going to New York. It is a benefit of  
3 private corporation. There is no public  
4 interest to the people of the State of New  
5 Jersey on this license.

6 Secondly, and respectfully, you  
7 don't have the authority to grant this  
8 application because of the so-called Stop  
9 Offshore Oil and Gas Act of 2018, which I had  
10 a hand in drafting. The Stop Act provides  
11 that no title or submerged lands in state  
12 waters shall be leased for the purposes of  
13 oil or natural gas exploration, development,  
14 or production.

15 The reason that your authority  
16 has been circumscribed is set forth by the  
17 legislature, which found that oil and natural  
18 gas development, exploration, and production  
19 in New Jersey waters poses a serious and  
20 unacceptable risk to the coastal resources of  
21 the state, the water quality of the state,  
22 and the continued viability of the State's  
23 Shore Tourism and commercial fishing  
24 industries.

25 Now, the Stop Act says that

1 development includes, but is not necessarily  
2 limited to pipelines that connect to  
3 production facilities in the Atlantic Ocean.  
4 Well, what else is included? This project is  
5 in the coastal zone, which is regulated by  
6 CAFRA, and further, the Stop Act is part of  
7 CAFRA. CAFRA defines development to mean the  
8 construction of any building or structure,  
9 including development and furtherance of a  
10 commercial or industrial use. Hence, the  
11 proposed natural gas line through Raritan Bay  
12 is prohibited by the plain language of the  
13 Stop Act in CAFRA.

14 I also want to share some insight  
15 I gained from assisting in the drafting of  
16 the Stop Act. The original version of  
17 legislation would have strictly prohibited  
18 offshore drilling, but in subsequent versions  
19 of the bill, that prohibition changed to  
20 offshore oil and natural gas exploration,  
21 development, and production.

22 The legislative sponsors were  
23 particularly concerned with the dangers posed  
24 to the marine environments, not just from the  
25 active drilling, but from three types of

1 fossil fuel activities in state waters,  
2 development being one of them.

3 And for good reason. Over the  
4 last 20 years in the United States, there  
5 have been over 1,400 documented gas  
6 transmission pipeline accidents that have  
7 caused 37 deaths, 150 injuries, and over 2.5  
8 billion dollars in property damage. And that  
9 data doesn't include the deadly pipeline  
10 explosion in Edison, New Jersey in 1994.

11 So these are some of the dangers  
12 that our legislature addressed by enacting  
13 the Stop Act. To conclude, the Tidelands  
14 Resource Council lacks the authority to  
15 circumvent the Stop Act by considering the  
16 proposed license for natural gas development  
17 in Raritan Bay. That is it. Thank you very  
18 much.

19 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

20 The next speaker is Kristine  
21 Gunningham.

22 MS. KRISTINE GUNNINGHAM: My name  
23 is Kristine Gunningham. I am a resident of  
24 Keansburg. And like others, I believe the  
25 effects can be extremely damaging to our

1 community specifically. Keansburg is already  
2 flood prone, already facing erosion, storm  
3 vulnerability, along with many other  
4 vulnerabilities, as prior speakers outlined,  
5 and we simply do not need more.

6 It's been stated that the  
7 pipeline will not disturb contaminated areas,  
8 and to me, that sounds like the goal is to  
9 not disturb known contaminated areas. And as  
10 we know, contamination is often widespread,  
11 poorly mapped, and even historically varied.

12 Also, public interest was cited  
13 by the Applicant as a reason for approval.  
14 And just yesterday, I collected 81 signatures  
15 from Keansburg and nearby concerned  
16 residents, and these names were collected in  
17 one day. Many people had no idea that this  
18 was occurring, and this was the first time  
19 that they've even heard about this project.

20 And out of every person that I  
21 spoke to, not one person supported this  
22 project. So the public is telling you all,  
23 this is not a public necessity, which is part  
24 of the voting criteria. And if it was public  
25 necessity, people would be here to tell you

1 so. This is our home, and I really, really,  
2 really, really hope that this Council will  
3 choose not to prioritize corporate profits  
4 over our health and safety. Thank you.

5 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you. The  
6 next speaker Allison McLeod.

7 MS. ALLISON McLEOD: My name is  
8 Allison McLeod. I am the intern executive  
9 director for the New Jersey League of  
10 Conservation Voters, statewide political  
11 voice for the environment. But I also speak  
12 to you today as a resident and a user of the  
13 Raritan Bay shore. I went to school in Sandy  
14 Hook. I started my environmental career as a  
15 kid on the bay, counting horseshoe crabs,  
16 piping plover, studying our marine ecosystem,  
17 and our tidelands. And I've spent my  
18 professional and personal life advocating for  
19 our waters, our water quality, our community  
20 health, and our marine ecosystems.

21 And I want to thank the volunteer  
22 members of the Council, and I acknowledge  
23 your time here today, hearing these concerns.  
24 I know you've heard a lot of frustrations  
25 from speakers. And while we fully understand

1 the limitations of this body, I will also  
2 note, there haven't been other places for  
3 residents to express their frustrations,  
4 their concerns, and their fears to Transco.

5 Even when speaking with our local  
6 elected officials, as the speaker before me  
7 just said, even a lot of the towns we spoke  
8 with had no information about the project,  
9 and there has been not public engagement on  
10 it.

11 And even calling back to the  
12 beginning of this presentation, members of  
13 the Council had questions about the as-built  
14 schematics and more information that you  
15 would like to see. So I would just the  
16 Council to please not vote to approve this  
17 project, when there are still questions about  
18 the actual infrastructure and construction.

19 And regarding some of the charge  
20 of the Council when making the decision that,  
21 of course, raises concerns for me what  
22 whether the impacts have been properly  
23 assessed or shared with you, the decision  
24 makers. And you know, regarding other uses  
25 for this tideland, I think you -- for the

1 Tidelands area, as you've heard from a lot of  
2 the other speakers about the improvements for  
3 oyster, for shell fisheries, for recreation,  
4 for hook-and-line fishing.

5 And as others have said, there is  
6 no benefit to the residents of the State of  
7 New Jersey. We take only the risk. You've  
8 heard the degradation that this would cause  
9 to the Tidelands resources, and I want to  
10 underscore the environmental concerns of all  
11 of the speakers before me. And regarding the  
12 environmental impact and assessment, I will  
13 note, as others have, that this project was  
14 denied twice before by the State of New  
15 Jersey and previously by the state of New  
16 York for failure to meet water quality  
17 standards, including the waters of our  
18 Tidelands.

19 So I thank you all for your time  
20 today, and I respectfully urge you to deny  
21 the license for this project. Thank you.

22 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

23 The next speaker is Sue  
24 Bernstein. Sue Bernstein is not available.

25 The next speaker is Celeste



1 Ricano. [Ph]

2 MS. CELESTE RICANO: First, I  
3 want to thank the Tidelands Resource Council  
4 for hearing our comments, and also, I want to  
5 thank the Tidelands Resource Council and the  
6 NJDEP for the very informative Tidelands 101  
7 webinar, which you recently hosted, and I did  
8 view it. I be -- become more familiar with  
9 the Council's responsibilities. So thank you  
10 for both.

11 On March 28, over 8 million  
12 people gathered across the United States  
13 speaking up to protect not only our -- their  
14 rights, but also those of their neighbors.  
15 And the message was loud and clear. Enough  
16 is enough. So here we are today with the  
17 same message because climate justice is a  
18 basic human right.

19 A coalition of 28 environmental  
20 and 20 advocacy organizations have  
21 successfully opposed this project for almost  
22 a decade. I know it must be tiring to hear  
23 all of these public comments, but just  
24 imagine how tiring it is for us to have to  
25 continually voice our opposition for over ten

1 years.

2 Each time the DEP, the NJDEP has  
3 denied Williams Transco the necessary permits  
4 to build this toxic compressor station and  
5 pipeline, and it is appalling that Williams  
6 Transco has again reopened their unchanged  
7 application. How? Do they think they have  
8 carte blanche now because of the federal  
9 government's pro oil and methane gas  
10 policies?

11 Since 2008, ten Williams  
12 Transco's pipelines and compressor stations  
13 have exploded. These incidents have killed  
14 six people and injured 103 residents. In  
15 addition, the fires and explosions have  
16 released methane into the atmosphere leveling  
17 buildings and contaminating groundwater. The  
18 risk of a compression -- a compressor station  
19 fire and explosion is extremely high because  
20 the proposed compressor station, which goes  
21 along with this pipeline, would be only yards  
22 from the Trap Rock quarry in Franklin  
23 Township, where nearby residents routinely  
24 experience ground-level blasting incidents.

25 Just one compressor station can

1 leak an estimated 870 kilograms of methane  
2 into the atmosphere each hour. Now, that is  
3 the equipment impact on the environment of  
4 burning seven tanker trucks every day. Along  
5 with buried contaminant -- contaminated  
6 sediment, disruptive because of the dredging  
7 needed for this pipeline, would release over  
8 one million tons of toxins into the Raritan  
9 Bay, suffocating fish eggs and contaminating  
10 the food chain.

11 And, of course, this would  
12 include the Tidelands area where those  
13 ecosystems would be directly impacted.

14 The NJDEP states on their website  
15 that all rights in the tidelands and the  
16 water itself are held by the state in trust  
17 for the benefit of the public. So this  
18 proposed methane compressor station and  
19 pipeline is directly in violation of their  
20 pledge to protect and preserve our waterways  
21 for the public utilizing these areas, both  
22 for economic opportunities and vital New  
23 Jersey tourism.

24 This one-billion-dollar fossil  
25 fuel expansion project will not benefit New

1 Jersey residents. Instead, it will cause  
2 sickness, destruction, and death.

3 The Tidelands Resource Council  
4 has the power to deny Williams Transco this  
5 license and must do so, putting an end to  
6 this disastrous project once and for all.  
7 Enough is enough. Thank you.

8 MS. MARILA XI: Thank you.

9 MR. RANDY BEARCE: Did we --  
10 yeah. I see that we have -- did we skip Kirk  
11 Frost? I had them -- I had Celeste later on  
12 down. I have a Kirk Frost, Nidhi Kulkarni,  
13 and Ray Cantor on the chat list.

14 MS. MARILA XIE: Kirk Frost is  
15 next.

16 MR. RANDY BEARCE: Okay.

17 MR. KIRK FROST: I loved all the  
18 comments so far, and I also very much  
19 appreciate the Council listening to us and --  
20 with objectivity, which I greatly appreciate  
21 in consideration.

22 A lot of folks have already  
23 talked about the public interest aspect. I  
24 guess one question with the public interest  
25 is whether or not -- I recall many years ago

1 needles showing up on the shore. So my  
2 question with this project, what's going to  
3 show up on the shore after it.

4 But future state use is another  
5 aspect of Tidelands Council that needs to be  
6 reviewed and determined. And determine  
7 whether the state may have a future use for  
8 the tidelands. Well, the New Jersey 2025  
9 Compre -- Comprehensive Climate Action Plan  
10 makes clear that the New Jersey future needs  
11 for coastal resilience shoreline protection,  
12 wetland restoration, and natural carbon  
13 sequestration are expanding. These use --  
14 uses depend on the very same coastal near  
15 shore lands that the NESE project seeks to  
16 occupy.

17 Approving a fossil easement would  
18 permanently constrain the State's documented  
19 future uses, and directly contradict the  
20 climate -- Comprehensive Climate Action  
21 Plan's directives to halt natural gas  
22 expansion, protect coastal ecosystems, and  
23 build a climate-resilient shoreline  
24 infrastructure.

25 Another aspect is the appropriate

1 fee. I did enjoy someone commenting about  
2 that before. Before issuing any Tidelands  
3 lease, the Council must determine an  
4 appropriate fee. When a proposed project  
5 materially contradicts the states climate  
6 action plan, forecloses future state uses of  
7 tidelands, and imposes climbing ecological  
8 damages on present and future generations,  
9 the Council must explain what methodology it  
10 will use to calculate the full damage-based  
11 cost to New Jersey residents.

12 What fee is going to account for  
13 this? 12K a year or 14K, whatever it was,  
14 14K a year certainly does not accommodate the  
15 damage it's going to do to New Jersey, and we  
16 are still very ignorant about what natural  
17 gas transmission pipelines do to our  
18 environment and our health and safety.

19 Finally, there's one last thing  
20 that I couldn't find on the website, and  
21 going through the regulations of the  
22 Tidelands Council, it says: "The Tidelands  
23 Council shall develop an informational guide  
24 entitled 'Guide to the Tidelands' which shall  
25 be written in clear and plain language."

1 I couldn't find that. I was  
2 looking for that to help me think of what to  
3 say. But thank you for your consideration,  
4 and please listen to all the experts that  
5 have spoken. They have done excellent.  
6 Thank you.

7 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

8 The next speaker is Nedhi  
9 Kulkarni. She cannot unmute, apparently.

10 I suppose I'll read their  
11 comment.

12 I am a Middlesex County resident  
13 and voter. I strongly urge the TRC to deny  
14 the utility license. I am against the NESE  
15 pipeline due to the following points.

16 Pipelines leak enormous amounts  
17 of methane, a stronger greenhouse gas and  
18 CO2, which directly contributes to the  
19 climate emergency.

20 The most recent annual State of  
21 the Air Report by the American Lung  
22 Association warns that nearly half of all  
23 children across the country are regularly  
24 exposed to dangerously high levels of toxic  
25 air pollution. According to their report,

1 Middlesex County has an F grade for ozone and  
2 has only on been receiving passing grades for  
3 annual particle pollution counts since --  
4 approximately 2010. I do not want to reverse  
5 the progress we've made.

6           Given the company's history, I am  
7 not confident in their ability to keep our  
8 community safe and healthy. According to  
9 Pipeline Safety Trust, PST analyzed publicly  
10 available records and found that the Transco  
11 system has more incidents than most  
12 pipelines. Even when adjusting for the  
13 length of Transco. Williams Co is worse than  
14 in other gas transmission operators in  
15 fatalities, cost per incident, and releases  
16 per incident.

17           The construction of the proposed  
18 unmanned compressor station could create air  
19 and water pollution by releasing toxic  
20 chemicals. The gases and toxins emitted by  
21 compressor stations increase the risks of  
22 asthma, cardiovascular, neurological, del --  
23 developmental, and respiratory diseases and  
24 cancers. The higher pressure and speed of  
25 the gas coming from the compressor stations



1 increases the risk of leaks, fires, and  
2 explosions.

3 A pipeline under the Raritan Bay  
4 could dredge up toxins buried for decades and  
5 cause pollution, increase flooding, and  
6 destroy critical wetlands and habitats. The  
7 people do not want this. Thank you to  
8 everyone here.

9 MS. MARILA XIE: The next speaker  
10 is Ray Cantor.

11 MR. RAY CANTOR: Thank you.  
12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify here  
13 today. My name is Ray Cantor. I am with the  
14 New Jersey Business and Industry Association,  
15 NJBIA -- large association, representing the  
16 business community, as we are strongly in  
17 support of this project.

18 And we ask the Council to approve  
19 the license. (Inaudible) -- recognize that a  
20 strong economy is dependent on -- (inaudible)  
21 -- reliable sources of energy and the  
22 infrastructure that is necessary to bring it  
23 to the region, and this project meets both of  
24 those standards.

25 We are not concerned that most of

1 the gas will be going to New York State. We  
2 recognize that we are a nation of individual  
3 states. One state should not be in the  
4 position to deny energy resources to another  
5 state. That is why we have worked  
6 overlooking the entire project, and if we  
7 were to accept that proposition, New Jersey  
8 would be -- (inaudible) -- states of merely  
9 deciding to deny our energy resources.

10 We have already seen a need for  
11 this project for the fact that FERC has  
12 approved it, and the environmental concerns  
13 -- (inaudible) -- New York and all the  
14 permits the New Jersey Department of  
15 Environmental Protection as issued the fact  
16 that those per its have been issued and  
17 approved it shows that it needs all  
18 environmental standards that are in place.

19 It is not the role of this  
20 commission or this Council to second-guess  
21 the experts both at New York and DEP whose  
22 expert is to make those specific judgments.  
23 The role of this Council is really to look  
24 and see whether or not there are conflicts  
25 with other tidelands or riparian users to

1 (inaudible) compensation is addressed, and  
2 again, to make sure that entities such as  
3 FERC and DEP have -- (inaudible).

4 So in conclusion, we are strongly  
5 in support of this project. We think it is  
6 going to help the regional -- (inaudible).  
7 And therefore, the business -- (inaudible) --  
8 in New Jersey, and we ask that the Council  
9 approve the license today. Thank you very  
10 much.

11 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

12 It is 12:05. We will go on  
13 another five-minute break, and we will return  
14 at 12:10. And in the meantime, I will make a  
15 slide for the remaining speakers so that  
16 people know when they are cued.

17 (Remote meeting recessed at 12:05  
18 p.m. and resumed at 12:11 p.m.)

19 MS. MARILA XIE: The next speaker  
20 is Judith Canepa.

21 MS. JUDITH CANEPA: Thank you to  
22 the TRC for this opportunity to speak. I am  
23 Judith Canepa. I'm a VET board member and  
24 energy conservation committee chair in New  
25 York city, and a member of the same energy

1 network. So a little history, thanks to a  
2 massive groundswell of resistance by New  
3 Jersey and New York to the NESE, our New York  
4 State DEC denied the pipeline in our waters  
5 for three years in a row, 2018 through 2020.

6 Williams Transco could not craft  
7 a plan to ensure safety from the contaminants  
8 below the seabed. Neither horizontal,  
9 directional drilling or any other method,  
10 shallow or deep, could prevent plumes of  
11 harmful silt from choking the benthic  
12 creatures, release of toxic heavy metal  
13 contaminants, couldn't be -- couldn't be  
14 assured of prevention, such as mercury,  
15 arsenic, copper.

16 Sadly, our current governor  
17 relaxed her scrutiny because of some federal  
18 pressures and, of course, our DEC and our PSC  
19 followed suit. But nothing has changed since  
20 2020. I suggest the Council take a good look  
21 at Williams' safety record. We've heard  
22 about pipeline companies in general, but  
23 Williams, they are based in Oklahoma, and  
24 it's often thanks to the local people that  
25 any alarms have been sounded. They have had

1 to pay over \$3.4 million in fines since 2008  
2 and 8 deaths -- six deaths and hundreds of  
3 injuries, thanks to failures in corrosion  
4 monitoring excavation and equipment  
5 maintenance.

6 We've also established, through  
7 independent consultants, that the projections  
8 of a future need for gas are seriously flawed  
9 in that, in fact, with our increasing  
10 efficiency standards and things like that our  
11 fast-growing use of heat pumps, which are two  
12 and three times more efficient than the best  
13 boilers, our public housing is rapidly  
14 switching to heat pumps, our city, our state,  
15 we have deadlines for emission reductions,  
16 that means we have to and will move off  
17 fossil fuels.

18 Findings are supporting  
19 independent projections that instead of  
20 National Grid projecting that there will be  
21 more consumers and a greater need for gas,  
22 the use has flat-lined. What hasn't  
23 flat-lined are seawater rise, species  
24 declined, intense weather, health impacts  
25 from air pollution, from compressor stations

1 and leaky pipelines and, of course, our gas  
2 bills. National Grid's giant gas storage  
3 facility in Greenpoint, Brooklyn can't show,  
4 even after this past ferocious winter, that  
5 there is a need for NESE's gas.

6 And indeed, we learned that it  
7 will likely go out into the open market, and  
8 bidders are going to be, who else, data  
9 centers. We don't need this gas, especially  
10 at the expense of New Jersey. And we don't  
11 want to see our own utility bills continue to  
12 skyrocket. Please, Commission, please deny  
13 this application. And if that is too  
14 challenging for today, I would suggest you  
15 wisely delay your decision until the  
16 resolution of the lawsuits that are pending  
17 in New Jersey and New York that were  
18 mentioned at the head of this hearing by  
19 Mr. Greenberg of the EELC. Thank you so  
20 much.

21 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you. The  
22 next speaker is Dennis Hart.

23 MR. DENNIS HART: Thank you very  
24 much for the opportunity to testify today.

25 My name is Dennis Hart. I am the

1 Executive Director of the Chemistry Council  
2 of New Jersey, formally the Executive  
3 Director of the Environmental Infrastructure  
4 Trust for New Jersey, Assistant Commissioner  
5 For Environmental Regulation, Director of  
6 Water Quality, and Assistant Director For  
7 Site Remediation.

8 Chemistry Council of New Jersey  
9 represents manufacturers of chemicals,  
10 pharmaceuticals, energy development, as well  
11 as personal care products. The number one  
12 cost to an energy -- to a manufacturer in New  
13 Jersey is the cost of energy. Energy is 60  
14 to 80 percent of the cost of the products  
15 manufactured in New Jersey is due to the cost  
16 of energy. Our manufacturers are already  
17 paying 55 percent more for electricity than  
18 the rest of the country.

19 So we -- and we are not looking  
20 at an energy crisis in the future. We're  
21 facing an energy crisis and energy shortage  
22 right now. I am here to testify in support  
23 of the application. When you look at energy  
24 supply, you just can't look at it from one  
25 state to another, one system to another, one

1 municipality to another, you have to consider  
2 the northeast as one large energy basin, and  
3 a shortage in one area impacts the entire  
4 basin.

5 Take, for instance, this last  
6 winter we went through. In very heavy  
7 winters, manufacturers are asked to cut back  
8 on natural gas supply, and so are electricity  
9 generators. And what they do is either cut  
10 back on manufacturing or it's substituted  
11 with fuel oil, a much dirtier energy  
12 generation. So then having clean natural gas  
13 as opposed to switching the fuel oil is a  
14 benefit, not only to the environment, but  
15 it's also a benefit to the economy.

16 I trust that the DEP staff, in  
17 all of the various permitting programs, have  
18 thoroughly reviewed all of the applications,  
19 taken into consideration all of the public's  
20 comments, as well as the environmental  
21 regulations, and in approving these projects  
22 have done their duty to comply with all the  
23 environmental laws and regulations.

24 With that in mind, we fully  
25 support this project, and we look forward to



1 the project being implemented. Thank you.

2 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you. The  
3 next speaker is Jill Aquino.

4 Jill, is it possible for you to  
5 put on headphones because your microphone is  
6 I can picking up yourself and echoing.

7 MS. JILL AQUINO: I don't think I  
8 have headphones to put on.

9 (Discussion off the record.)

10 MS. JILL AQUINO: Hello, my name  
11 is Jill Aquino, and I live in Sussex County,  
12 New Jersey. I am a former pediatric nurse, a  
13 former pediatric psychiatric nurse, a former  
14 school nurse, and currently an environmental  
15 health nurse working at NYU Medical --  
16 (inaudible) -- Environmental medica --  
17 Medicine division, with the Ramapo Leanpe  
18 turtle clan and deer clan who live in  
19 Ringwood, New Jersey, and in Hillburn, New  
20 York.

21 I would like to thank the NJDEP  
22 for previous denial of Transco's prior permit  
23 applications. This project has not changed  
24 since Transco's first failed applications and  
25 should be denied again.

1 I am deeply opposed to the NESE  
2 pipeline project and its associated  
3 compressor station, as this project will have  
4 very serious impacts on water quality, both  
5 during and after construction.

6 There needs to be a rapid and  
7 just transition to 100 percent renewable  
8 energy immediately. Not further  
9 infrastructure for natural gas. And by the  
10 way, natural gas is not clean. The product  
11 transported by NESE pipeline is a fossil fuel  
12 that dangerously contributes to climate  
13 change.

14 Methane, the primary component of  
15 natural gas, is a potent greenhouse gas that  
16 leaks from pipelines, contributing to overall  
17 greenhouse gas emissions and ground-level  
18 ozone. Methane contributes to the forming of  
19 ground-level ozone by reacting with other  
20 harmful air pollutants when sunlight is  
21 present. This causes dangerous respiratory  
22 illnesses, especially in children, birth  
23 defects, chronic heart and lung issues, and  
24 cancer.

25 There are nine million premature

1 deaths each year, which equates to  
2 one-in-five deaths and overall increased  
3 mortality rates.

4 A Harvard study found that 8  
5 million people worldwide died in 2018 from  
6 fossil fuel pollution. This is the  
7 equivalent to the population of New York  
8 City.

9 Significantly reducing methane  
10 emissions is crucial for combatting both  
11 climate change and ground-level ozone  
12 pollution. We already know that climate  
13 change is affecting our entire planet.

14 The utmost concern must be about  
15 the people, our forests, our drinking water,  
16 our air, and not the pipelines themselves or  
17 the pipeline companies, or the exorbitant  
18 amount of money the pipeline industry makes  
19 as a direct result of our forests, our land,  
20 and our water, which are all being  
21 contaminated. And the risks are highly  
22 explosive when pipelines are built or  
23 expanded.

24 The health of our nation has  
25 never been more at risk with the asthma rates

1 -- never seen at the levels they are seen  
2 currently.

3 I spoke to Congress in front of  
4 in our nation's capital on September 14, 2021  
5 about our nation's air and the poor health of  
6 our children. As a former school nurse of 16  
7 and a half years, I've seen, firsthand, how  
8 poor health of our planet is directly  
9 negatively impacting the health of our  
10 children, and this will continue if we do not  
11 take a stand against the NESE pipeline  
12 project and say no more pipelines.

13 The health and well-being of our  
14 planet must be our top priority. And moving  
15 forward with a major fossil fuel  
16 infrastructure project, like NESE, will be  
17 devastating to the public's health and public  
18 safety. I employ you today to immediately  
19 abolish the NESE pipeline project, as this  
20 project in -- compressor stations, a very  
21 serious, short and long-term, disastrous  
22 interacts on the environment, the wildlife,  
23 its habitat destruction, water, air  
24 pollution, noise disturbance, and  
25 environmental effects that are not minimum,

1 which contribute to climate change.

2 Thank you for allowing me to  
3 speak today. I urge the license for the NESE  
4 pipeline be denied by this Council, NJDEP, as  
5 it was before, and Governor Mikie Sherrill.  
6 Thank you.

7 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

8 The next speaker is Jessie  
9 Lindsay.

10 MS. JESSIE LINDSAY: Everything I  
11 was going to say has been said. I just want  
12 to remind people that we are not the owners  
13 of the earth or the sea. We only borrow them  
14 when we are living. We can't allow a few  
15 corrupt politicians, emphasizing corrupt, to  
16 determine that that's what the people want.  
17 Okay.

18 Businesses do not want NESE. We  
19 will lose bills of dollars. I'd like to see  
20 the list of signatures of business owners,  
21 knowing these facts, that indeed they want  
22 NESE. I don't believe it. Okay. This has  
23 been denied again and again, and the only  
24 reason why its being brought up again is  
25 because certain regimes decided that they

1 were going to get a percentage of that  
2 pipeline. CEO executives are going to get  
3 millions of dollars every year that that  
4 pipeline exists.

5 New York didn't want it. That  
6 was a dirty deal with Hochul and Trump. And  
7 New Jersey didn't want it. Okay. So all  
8 this stuff about businesses wanting it is  
9 false. It will kill the boating industry,  
10 the fisher industry. All the tourists that  
11 come in for all of that, the beaches, the  
12 animal life, we to murder dolphins, turtles,  
13 endangered species, like turtles, clams,  
14 oysters, whales, horseshoe crab, Atlantic  
15 sturgeon, winter flounder. No one asked the  
16 fisherman, did they.

17 It is ridiculous that for ten  
18 years I've been fighting this, and I will  
19 never get tired of fighting this. So don't  
20 think that this is over. And the Tidelands  
21 Resource Council, wow, you have a lot of  
22 power in your hands, and I hope you make the  
23 ethical and only right decision to be made.  
24 Thank you very much.

25 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

1                   The next speaker is Kin Gee.

2                   MR. KIN GEE: Good afternoon.

3           Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My  
4           name is Kin Gee. I serve as president of the  
5           Grass Root Group called CHARGE, Consumers  
6           Helping Affect Regulation of Gas and  
7           Electric. Our group was founded in 2018 to  
8           be the public voice of New Jersey's more than  
9           3 million individual consumers in public  
10          policy discussions, the legislation process,  
11          and the regulation of utility energy sectors.

12                   I am speaking today to urge the  
13          Council to deny the final utility license  
14          needed for the construction of Williams  
15          Transco NESE project. For the record, we  
16          started a petition opposing the project and  
17          have gathered more than 4,000 signatures.  
18          You heard from many groups already about the  
19          environmental concerns. So in the interest  
20          of time, I won't repeat them.

21                   However, I would like to  
22          emphasize, just for the record, in April  
23          2024, Williams Transco wrote to FERC, the  
24          Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, that it  
25          -- the NESE certificate expired in May 2024,

1 and will not be seeking another extension.

2 And in June of 2024, FERC issued  
3 the order vacating the certificate of order.  
4 Unfortunately, in June 2025, Williams Transco  
5 reapplied to build this project, only after  
6 federal action by the new Trump  
7 administration and negotiation with the State  
8 of New York.

9 So I just want to conclude with  
10 this, the NESE pipeline project was filed  
11 under pretext and represents a money grab  
12 from a large energy company. The pipeline  
13 does not connect to any existing New Jersey  
14 pipelines. It serves no public interest for  
15 New Jersey. Unfortunately, people living  
16 near and downwind of the gas regulator  
17 station, marine life, fisherman, clammers,  
18 recreational user of Raritan Bay could all  
19 become collateral damage.

20 Therefore, we join with other  
21 advocates in urging you to deny the utility  
22 license for the NESE project. Thank you.

23 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

24 The next speaker is Paige  
25 Pinckney.



1 MS. PAIGE PINCKNEY: Thank you  
2 very much to everyone for the opportunity to  
3 speak today. I am speaking to you today, not  
4 just as a resident of New Jersey, but as  
5 someone who grew up on Keuka Lake, which is  
6 part of the Finger Lakes region of Upstate  
7 New York, and is untouched by hydrofracking  
8 infrastructure of any kind.

9 I grew up watching countless  
10 coalitions, committees, and legal teams fight  
11 tooth and nail to keep hydrofracking out of  
12 New York State, just like the organizations  
13 present in this meeting today are fighting to  
14 keep fracked gas infrastructure from doing  
15 the exact same kind of harm to New Jersey.

16 Their efforts were so successful  
17 and so clearly in the best interests of New  
18 York State that hydrofracking is permanently  
19 banned in New York State. And since then,  
20 these hydrofracking companies have pivoted to  
21 pipeline infrastructure, which since 2010,  
22 the vast majority of these projects have been  
23 refused by New York State or abandoned by  
24 their developers because the pipelines and  
25 compressor stations damage the land and the

1 waterways just as much as the fracking  
2 itself.

3 From 2016 to 2021, three projects  
4 representing 931 miles of pipeline, some of  
5 which was also supposed to run through New  
6 Jersey was fought off. These projects, for  
7 your research, for the Pilgrim's  
8 Constitution, and Williams pipelines.

9 Now, a fracking pipeline project  
10 that had been denied for years, pulls a  
11 complete 180 on approvals over the course of  
12 mere months, that represents an unprecedented  
13 reversal in New York State and New Jersey  
14 State policy. And the timing should alarm  
15 everyone involved.

16 Regardless of the permits that  
17 have been granted, the state's reversal on  
18 these policies, this project represents an  
19 abuse of the relationship between New York  
20 State and New Jersey, and straight hypocrisy  
21 by the state of New Jersey, who knows that  
22 this infrastructure damages the environment  
23 and negatively affects residents and  
24 ecosystems.

25 Now, you stated, with your

1 reiteration of the Council's duty, that it is  
2 the Council's duty to weigh the pipeline's  
3 value for the State of New Jersey. There is  
4 clearly zero value and immeasurable harm.

5 I hope that you choose to protect  
6 the Tidelands of New Jersey in the ways New  
7 York has always protected its own waterways  
8 and tributaries from fracking and fracking  
9 infrastructure, since fracking started in  
10 earnest in this country. Thank you very  
11 much.

12 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

13 The next speaker is Rick Jones.

14 MR. RICHARD JONES: Richard  
15 Jones, Highlands, New Jersey. You've likely  
16 heard the buzz word "fungible" being applied  
17 to crude oil prices recently, and I am  
18 looking at a Federal Reserve Bank chart that  
19 compares the Henry Hub US natural gas spot  
20 price to the European Union spot price.  
21 There is a large spread. We are paying much,  
22 much less than the rest of the world.

23 People residing in the US  
24 currently benefit from abundant U.S. natural  
25 gas supplies and paying much less than most

1 other countries. US natural gas is currently  
2 less fungible than crude oil because there is  
3 a limited amount of LNG export capacity.

4 What does this have to do with  
5 NESE, the NESE Pipeline? There may be  
6 ulterior motives.

7 April 28, in Croatia, Secretary  
8 Wright signed an agreement to grow American  
9 LNG exports. There have been three attempts  
10 to build an offshore LNG facility in the  
11 vicinity of where the NESE pipeline would  
12 terminate.

13 The alleged need was to import  
14 natural gas to Long Island, but the Deepwater  
15 Port Act and the Energy Policy Act would  
16 allow exporting. This chart -- this chart  
17 from the National Grid Report, long-term  
18 capacity of Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island,  
19 and Long Island, it shows that there --  
20 except for a few spikes, the pipeline  
21 capacity that is existing is well-below  
22 what's defined as the design day.

23 There's a press release, February  
24 5, 2026, National Grid press release. It  
25 says that it meets the record demand for Long

1 Island natural gas customers as arctic blast  
2 blankets to the northeast. Quote, Natural  
3 Grid delivered record amounts of natural gas  
4 to its Long Island, Rockaway, Peninsula  
5 customers. If anything, perhaps all Long  
6 Island needs -- requires is building some  
7 storage capacity for the occasional spikes.

8 Is this project for Long Island  
9 or part of the plan to export our country's  
10 precious finite natural gas resources? If it  
11 is the latter, that is a sure fire way to  
12 increase energy cost US rate payers, because  
13 we'll be paying -- we'll be in direct  
14 competition with the global market and  
15 rapidly depleting our natural gas reserves.

16 So I refer to Reuter's May 1,  
17 2026, story, while Asian and Europe scramble  
18 for natural gas, US glut has nowhere to go.

19 And also Public Citizen, December  
20 16, 2025, Trump LNG Energy Export Policy cost  
21 household 12 billion in first nine months of  
22 2025.

23 If Governor Mikie Sherrill truly  
24 wants to drive down energy prices for New  
25 Jersey, or at least minimize the increases,

1 she should deny approval for this project. I  
2 suggest -- I suggest the Council ask the  
3 pipeline if this pipeline capacity will ever  
4 facilitate exporting natural gas. For the  
5 sake of New Jersey residents, I encourage the  
6 Council to deny this Tidelands license.  
7 Thank you.

8 MS. MARILA XIE: The next speaker  
9 is Don Greenberg.

10 MR. DON GREENBERG: Hi. So my  
11 name is Don Greenberg. I'm a resident of  
12 Bradley Beach, New Jersey, and the at-large  
13 chair of the Surfrider Foundation New Jersey  
14 Shore Chapter, whose mission it is to protect  
15 the oceans, waves, and beaches for  
16 everybody's enjoyment. Pretty much, the  
17 previous speakers stole my thunder,  
18 especially Paige Pinckney, I think she was  
19 looking at my notes.

20 But a couple things that I'd like  
21 to bring up, one, in the beginning,  
22 Mr. Bearce said that this crosses no  
23 contaminated sites, this pipeline. Whereas,  
24 it does. Part of the Raritan Bay Loop would  
25 go through the Raritan Bay Slag Superfund

1 site, where there is buried lead, arsenic,  
2 antimony, copper, iron, and chromium. Those  
3 are the primary contaminants. Other metal  
4 contaminants are manganese, vanadium, zinc.

5 Areas 7 and 11 of the Raritan Lag  
6 Superfund site are part of the NESE  
7 construction work space, where there is toxic  
8 levels of lead, arsenic, and other heavy  
9 metals that have been found by the EPA and  
10 the NJDEP.

11 That is one point, and that is  
12 just one of many points. I don't know how  
13 this Council could consider approving  
14 anything that goes through a Superfund site.  
15 It just defies common sense.

16 The other thing that I would like  
17 to bring up is something personal. My  
18 daughter moved to Keyport, less than a mile  
19 and a half from where this pipeline would  
20 enter the bay, because of the beauty of the  
21 bay, a bay that has been restored over  
22 decades, and we shouldn't destroy this bay  
23 for a profit grab by a multinational company.

24 I'd also like to address  
25 something said by Mr. Hart about clean

1 natural gas. There is no such thing as clean  
2 natural gas. From inception to  
3 transportation to use, it is not a clean  
4 energy source. And Mr. Cantor had said that  
5 it was approved by FERC, so it must be okay.

6 I'd like to remind the members of  
7 the Council, FERC never met a pipeline it  
8 didn't like. I don't remember any case where  
9 FERC has denied a pipeline.

10 And lastly, I would implore the  
11 Council to deny this application and please,  
12 please, do not sell our health and our  
13 environment for 30 pieces of silver. Thank  
14 you very much.

15 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

16 The next speaker --

17 MR. JOE GRABAS: Chairperson,  
18 before we go on, this is Joe Grabas, the chat  
19 room is not meant for continuing  
20 declarations, as we move forward. Everybody  
21 has their time, and we can't continue to have  
22 thousands of comments and information loaded  
23 onto us here. You have your opportunity to  
24 talk. And then we move to the next person.  
25 I think you made that clear in the beginning.



1 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: I did, and  
2 I was going to say something, but yes, please  
3 refrain from using the chat for anything but  
4 signing up to speak. Thank you.

5 MS. MARILA XIE: Okay. The next  
6 speaker is Harsh Bhargava.

7 MR. HARSH BHARGAVA: This is  
8 Harsh. First, lots of thanks to the  
9 honorable members of the Tidelands Council  
10 for their patient listening to our serious  
11 concerns.

12 Since so many speakers have  
13 already given hard facts of why this project  
14 will be terrible for environment, for our  
15 water resources, our bay, our health, our  
16 economy, I am going to take a different  
17 perspective. Let me take a global  
18 perspective of where we are.

19 China is our economic, political,  
20 military competitor. And it is getting way  
21 ahead of us in one of the most important  
22 aspect of scientific growth, which is solar  
23 and wind products. According to New York  
24 Times, China has got 2.2 gigawatt, over 26  
25 percent of their country's need of

1 electricity from -- solar and wind energy.  
2 Where we are, we used to be -- we produced  
3 480 gigawatt, about one-fourth of what China  
4 is producing, and we are the country that  
5 discovered solar energy. That is it. That  
6 is a real slap on our face that we have  
7 allowed other people to grow, because we have  
8 taken the easy and dirty way of using gas.

9 So I would request the honorable  
10 members to help us get back, our country  
11 back, back to the great traditions of  
12 innovation, of advancement, of looking long  
13 term, and I would urge, humbly, although I  
14 know it is not going to be hard, but I would  
15 urge Transco to please jump on solar and  
16 clean energy and become the leaders there,  
17 not just for our future, but for your future.  
18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

20 The next speaker is Anshul Gupta.  
21 Is Anshul Gupta here? I see the name Anshul  
22 Gupta in the presenter list. You are  
23 currently muted. Are you able to unmute?

24 MR. ANSHUL GUPTA: Yes, I have  
25 unmuted. Are you able to hear me?

1 MS. MARILA XI: Yes.

2 MR. ANSHUL GUPTA: (Inaudible).

3 MR. RANDY BEARCE: You have a bad  
4 connection. Can you maybe try to log back  
5 in, or use the call-in number, and we can see  
6 if you can have the opportunity to speak  
7 later on, but it is a very bad connection.

8 MR. ANSHUL GUPTA: I will try  
9 later. Are you able to hear me now, by the  
10 way?

11 MS. MARILA XIE: Yes.

12 MR. RANDY BEARCE: A little bit  
13 better, but it is still skipping. Go on.  
14 See if we can hear you. Go ahead.

15 MR. ANSHUL GUPTA: Okay. Good  
16 afternoon. My name is Anshul Gupta. I'm the  
17 Poland ser -- director for New York  
18 association -- (inaudible) also a New Jersey  
19 resident, Bergen County. Thank you for this  
20 opportunity to speak.

21 Plus, I like to speak as the New  
22 York Policy -- Director on the origin of the  
23 NESE pipelines -- (inaudible).

24 MR. RANDY BEARCE: I think we are  
25 losing you. We are going to have to

1       disconnect you. You are in and out. If you  
2       want to try and log back in --

3               MR. ANSHUL GUPTA: I will try  
4       later. Thanks.

5               MR. RANDY BEARCE: Okay.

6               MS. MARILA XIE: All right.

7               MR. RANDY BEARCE: Let's move on  
8       to the next speaker.

9               MS. MARILA XIE: The next speaker  
10       is Kevin Quinn. Is Kevin Quinn present?

11               The next speaker is Paula  
12       Rogovin.

13               MS. PAULA ROGOVIN: I'm Paula  
14       Rogovin from Food & Water Watch North Jersey  
15       volunteer team. I live in Teaneck, New  
16       Jersey. I taught kindergarten and first  
17       grade for 44 years in New York City public  
18       schools. Over the years, my students did  
19       research about the school, the community,  
20       workers building the Second Avenue Subway,  
21       and the use of pesticides in parks.

22               They asked questions, and we did  
23       research to find answers. They interviewed  
24       people. They learned the science. And when  
25       things got them upset, we made a list of what

1 we could do about it, and we took action. We  
2 even got a law passed to ban pes -- toxic  
3 pesticides in New York City parks and  
4 playgrounds.

5 So what does this have to do with  
6 the NESE pipeline? Over the last several  
7 years here in New Jersey, many of us took  
8 time to ask questions about the proposed NESE  
9 pipeline and compressor. I was particularly  
10 interested in what might happen to a  
11 60-year-old pipeline if Transco installed a  
12 compressor to push the gas faster through  
13 this very old pipeline.

14 We learned that old pipes break  
15 more frequently. Especially when under  
16 greater pressure. There are documented  
17 leaks, explosions, and injuries throughout  
18 the U.S. They have been spoken about by  
19 other speakers.

20 I also listened carefully as  
21 people explained the science of installing a  
22 pipeline through Tidelands and under the bay.  
23 What did I learn? It would stir up one  
24 million tons of toxic sediments, including  
25 PCBs, dioxin, lead, methylmercury,

1 petrochemicals, arsenic, polluting the bay  
2 and the ocean. The sediment would take up to  
3 three years to settle, suffocating fish and  
4 eggs and larvae, contaminating the food  
5 chain. This includes the tidelands areas  
6 where vulnerable ecosystems, as you know,  
7 would be directly impacted. Important bay  
8 ecosystems, including oyster reefs, clam  
9 beds, wetlands, and shallow waters, would be  
10 impacted.

11 It would release unspecified  
12 chemicals and biosides into marine  
13 environment. All of this will impact all of  
14 our marine life, fish, shellfish, turtles,  
15 whales, birds, including those endangered  
16 species.

17 So like my students, the hundreds  
18 of people in this region, and throughout New  
19 York and New Jersey, have made lists of what  
20 we can do to stop this pipeline. The NESE  
21 pipeline. We've held forums and rallies.  
22 We've gathered resolutions from town councils  
23 in the area.

24 The top of my list for me today  
25 is to appeal to you to reject the NESE

1 pipeline, reject the forces that are pushing  
2 the expanded use of fossil fuels. Wars, like  
3 the war in Iran, the attacks on Venezuela,  
4 the wars for fossil fuels, New York has said  
5 that they don't even need natural gas from  
6 the NESE pipeline. It will benefit only a  
7 major corporation, the fossil fuel industry.

8 I urge you to read about the  
9 expanding use of renewable energy around the  
10 world that was referred to by an earlier  
11 speaker. Listen to the science. Reject the  
12 NESE pipeline and compressor. Thank you.

13 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

14 The next speaker is Stephanie  
15 Startz.

16 MS. STEPHANIE STARTZ: Hi. Thank  
17 you for the opportunity to speak.

18 My name is Stephanie Startz. I am  
19 a resident of Hudson County, New Jersey. New  
20 Jersey gains no benefit from the NESE  
21 pipeline, but receives the pollution, health  
22 risks, and damage. FERC stated in their  
23 initial key findings in January 2019, the  
24 operation of a Compressor Station 206 along  
25 the NESE project would result in long-term

1 impacts on air quality.

2 Communities along the route will  
3 be exposed to chemicals tied to cancer, brain  
4 damage, and developmental harm. They'll face  
5 toxic air and water from potential gas leaks  
6 and sediments laced with arsenic, mercury,  
7 lead, and PCBs. This project would turn  
8 Hunterdon, Somerset, and Middlesex Counties  
9 and the Raritan Bay into cancer alley.

10 The Tidelands will face damage  
11 from erosion, loss of the marine ecosystem,  
12 and extreme weather caused by the NESE  
13 Pipeline.

14 Our Tidelands serve to protect  
15 against storm surge and prevent flooding.  
16 New Jersey already lacks the necessary  
17 infrastructure to manage these severe storms  
18 that have become part of our regular seasonal  
19 rhythms. We not only need to maintain the  
20 current Tidelands, but invest in  
21 strengthening the Raritan Bay coastline.

22 Additionally, the land that will  
23 be used for this pipeline and compressor  
24 station could be better used for housing,  
25 solar farms, or battery storage projects. My



1 family lives in Monmouth County, ten miles  
2 from the compressor station, and they enjoy  
3 fishing in the Raritan Bay. My niece is also  
4 a student at the Marine Academy of Science  
5 and Technology in the Highlands. This is not  
6 an easy school to get into, but her deep love  
7 and appreciation for our oceans and marine  
8 life motivated her to study and excel in  
9 school. She hopes one day to become a marine  
10 scientist.

11 If this permit is approved and  
12 the project goes forward, my niece and her  
13 classmates at MAST will bare witness to the  
14 decline of the Raritan Bay, with the rise of  
15 toxic chemicals and the loss of marine life.

16 As adults, we have a  
17 responsibility to future generations. We  
18 need to model good judgment, honesty, and  
19 courage. We know the NESE pipeline will  
20 pollute toxic carcinogenic substances into  
21 our air and the Raritan Bay. We know the  
22 NESE pipeline is operated by a company with a  
23 long and troubling safety record that  
24 includes multiple explo -- explosions and  
25 repeated federal violations. We know the

1 NESE pipeline will not benefit the residents  
2 of New Jersey.

3 Young people watching us know  
4 these truths as well. They're witnessing us  
5 trade their health, joy, and future for  
6 political expediency. They know we are lying  
7 about the justifications for approving the --  
8 this project. They know that this is a  
9 theft. There is no compromise with the  
10 environment.

11 Williams Transco's proposed  
12 energy credits will not stop the storm surge  
13 from the Atlantic. It will not prevent  
14 rising emissions leading to stronger storms,  
15 warmer summers, and worsening air pollution.  
16 It will not prevent asthma, cancer, or the  
17 neurological conditions the broader community  
18 will suffer. Please deny the Tidelands  
19 permit. Thank you.

20 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

21 The next speaker is Ken Dolsky.

22 MR. KEN DOLSKY: My name is Ken  
23 Dolsky. I am on the steering committee of  
24 Empower New Jersey. I am the chair of Divest  
25 New Jersey and vice president of New Jersey

1 Forest Watch.

2 The addition of more natural gas  
3 pipelines in New Jersey conflicts with the  
4 New Jersey Global Warming Response Act, which  
5 requires an 80 percent reduction in  
6 greenhouse gas additions by 2050. Methane  
7 leaks from all pipelines and compressors, and  
8 methane is 86 times more powerful at  
9 capturing heat than carbon dioxide, making it  
10 one of the most damaging greenhouse gases.

11 In the past, the DEP, the New  
12 Jersey DEP, has illegally ignored this law  
13 and probably did so when it approved the  
14 permit for NESE. So this action is counter  
15 to New Jersey's strategy and New Jersey law.

16 The pipeline also conflicts with  
17 New York's Climate Leadership and Community  
18 Protection Act, which mandates a transition  
19 away from fossil fuels. There is no gas  
20 shortage. Studies have shown no urgent need  
21 for the gas and the demand forecasts are  
22 inflated.

23 Specifically, the New York State  
24 Public Service Commission found that under  
25 National Grid's 20-year forecast, in 2025,

1 that supply exceeds demand by approximately  
2 195,000 dekatherms per day. In 2026, growing  
3 to a peak surplus 559,000 dekatherms per day  
4 in 2029, 2030. And remaining in surplus  
5 through 2050, for the next 30 -- 25 years, 24  
6 years, there is no need for this.

7 Therefore, there is no modeled  
8 shortfall that NESE would be needed to  
9 resolve. And basically, as we all know,  
10 historical findings of need, by commissions,  
11 especially FERC, are known to be false based  
12 on trumped-up contracts. We have seen that  
13 time and time again with these gas pipelines.

14 The only beneficiaries are the  
15 gas pipeline companies who make a guaranteed  
16 rate of return on their capital, whether any  
17 gas is ever pumped through the pipeline or  
18 not. The Institute For Energy Economics and  
19 Financial Analyses argues the pipeline would  
20 raise costs for rate payers, potentially  
21 charging them over one billion dollars  
22 because the cost to build the pipeline is  
23 included in their rates, whether they ever  
24 get any gas from it or not.

25 For New Jersey residents, this

1 project will not save them a dime in gas or  
2 electricity costs. It will only add to our  
3 health costs from air pollution and other  
4 costs associated with degradation to water  
5 quality and damage to marine life.

6 Our Tidelands are a precious  
7 resource, and nature is not making any more  
8 of them. We need to protect what we have for  
9 ourselves and our progeny. Accepting  
10 continual degradation by approving one  
11 incrementally bad project after another is a  
12 road to total destruction. Approving  
13 unneeded projects is the absolutely worst  
14 decision the TRC can make.

15 Let me say that again, approving  
16 unnecessary projects is the absolute worst  
17 decision the TRC can make. Please draw the  
18 line in the sand here with the unnecessary  
19 NESE pipeline. Thank you very much.

20 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

21 ANSHUL GUPTA: Anshul Gupta is  
22 back with a different network.

23 MR. ANSHUL GUPTA: Good  
24 afternoon. My name is Anshul Gupta. I am  
25 the policy and research director for New

1     Yorkers for Clean Power, which is a statewide  
2     not-for-profit organization, working on clean  
3     air solutions. I am also a New Jersey  
4     resident. I live in Bergen County. Thank  
5     you for this opportunity to speak.

6             First, I'd like to speak as the  
7     New York Policy and Research director on the  
8     origin of the NESE pipeline's revival, after  
9     it had been denied multiple times over the  
10    years.

11            During the 2024 election cycle,  
12    the oil and gas industry, including the  
13    Williams pipeline company, spent \$450 million  
14    to impact the election results.

15            As soon as President Trump took  
16    office, he embarked on a systematic payback  
17    plan for the industry, including successfully  
18    bullying New York's Governor Hochul into  
19    approving the NESE pipeline.

20            Our organization is a party to  
21    the National Grid's long-term gas plan in  
22    which the New York Public Service Commission  
23    double-stamped National Grid's claim that the  
24    pipeline is necessary for the reliability of  
25    New York's downstate gas system.

1                   Our organization filed a petition  
2                   for a rehearing on the PSE's decision, and we  
3                   are deeply involved in this -- in this  
4                   proceeding and sort of familiar with the  
5                   details of the case.

6                   The New York Department of  
7                   Environmental Conservation issued its water  
8                   quality permit based on this need stated by  
9                   National Grid. But in reality, there is no  
10                  reliability need. It is to be believed that  
11                  New York leaves the reliability of its gas  
12                  system at the mercy of election results? Of  
13                  course not.

14                 The only use that National Grid  
15                 has for this gas is to generate electricity  
16                 for data centers and to convert Long Island  
17                 propane customers who should be transitioning  
18                 to heat pumps, not highly polluting with  
19                 dangerous fracked gas.

20                 Now speaking as a New Jersey  
21                 resident, this project has no public  
22                 necessity or public benefit or public  
23                 interest for New Jersey. It isn't even in  
24                 the -- in the public interest of New York,  
25                 which will receive 100 percent of the fracked

1 gas from this pipeline.

2           However, New Jersey would only be  
3 taking on the environmental and economic risk  
4 from this project, including, but not limited  
5 to, disturbance of seabed toxins. So both as  
6 a New Jersey resident and on behalf of New  
7 Yorkers of Clean Power, I strongly urge the  
8 Tidelands Resource Council to deny a utility  
9 license for Williams Transco's NESE Pipeline.

10           With long-term -- more damage to  
11 -- methane gas infrastructure, U.S. fracked  
12 gas prices are set to explode in the future,  
13 as the gas industry ramps up more profitable  
14 energy exports.

15           So it is all in the businesses  
16 and manufacturers' interest to transition to  
17 cheaper and non-polluting sources of energy.

18           Unlike New York's Governor  
19 Hochul, Governor Sherrill has no need to  
20 appease Trump's demands for more toxic fuel  
21 infrastructure. Thank you.

22           MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

23           The next speaker is Steven  
24 Mitchell.

25           MR. STEVEN MITCHELL: Thank you.



1 My name is Steven Mitchell. I reside in  
2 Somerville in Somerset County, New Jersey.  
3 It is a county that's directly affected by  
4 the proposed completion of the pipeline and  
5 the compressor station that is to be built in  
6 nearby Franklin Township.

7 The proposed Northeast Supply  
8 Enhancement Pipeline is projected to inflict  
9 damage on New Jersey's coastline by dredging  
10 up over one million tons of toxic, heavy  
11 metal laden sediment, including arsenic and  
12 lead, from the Raritan Bay.

13 The project often referred to as  
14 the "zombie pipeline," threatens to disrupt  
15 roughly 94,000 square feet of New Jersey  
16 Tidelands, and harms over 14,000 acres of  
17 seabed. Toxic sediment resuspension, the  
18 construction will resuspend toxic sediments  
19 of PCBs, dioxin, arsenic, lead into the  
20 water, which can harm the Bayshore  
21 communities.

22 Additionally, the 23-mile  
23 pipeline route through Raritan Bay is  
24 expected to destroy crucial clam beds, oyster  
25 reefs, and fish habitats. High levels of

1 noise and vibration from construction will  
2 harm marine life, including the endangered  
3 Atlantic right whale and the Atlantic  
4 sturgeon.

5 The release of over 690,000  
6 gallons of drilling fluids containing biocide  
7 chemicals is to be expected from this  
8 disruption of the seabed.

9 The project will affect several  
10 New Jersey communities along the coast with  
11 residents and activists citing risk to  
12 recreational activities, commercial fishing,  
13 and public health.

14 The project faced previous  
15 defeats in 2019 and 2020, and yet continues  
16 to face opposition because of the toxic water  
17 and dirty air.

18 The most egregious part of the  
19 Williams Transco's NESE pipeline application  
20 is that Williams never bothered to fix their  
21 original project proposal that was found by  
22 the DPA previously to exceed environmental  
23 thresholds for protection of the wetlands,  
24 air pollution, and the marine mammals that  
25 will be threatened by the dredging of the New

1 Jersey shoreline to complete the pipeline.

2 Did Transco deliberately target  
3 Franklin Township because it's an  
4 environmentally justice community? Is New  
5 Jersey doing New York a favor, since New  
6 Jersey residents get no benefit whatsoever  
7 from the pipeline?

8 What New Jersey does get is the  
9 pollution that will be generated by Transco's  
10 NESE Compressor Station 206 without any  
11 benefit whatsoever, with the destruction of  
12 the 23-mile portion of New Jersey coastline.

13 I ask that the Tidelands Resource  
14 Council and Governor Sherrill take that into  
15 consideration, and I really think that  
16 Governor Sherrill will lose more support with  
17 NESE approval than she will gain for allowing  
18 the Williams company to export the fracked  
19 natural gas to New York.

20 Additionally, how much of NESE's  
21 natural gas will actually be exported to  
22 other nations? There's been no disclosure on  
23 that whatsoever. Thank you.

24 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you. The  
25 next speaker is Pablo Salazar.

1 MR. PABLO SALAZAR: My name is  
2 Pablo Salazar. I'm a resident of Mercer  
3 County and student researcher at the College  
4 of New Jersey. Days ago, during Earth Week,  
5 the DEP Commissioner, Ed Potosnak, spoke at  
6 TCNJ, and during the Q&A portion of this  
7 presentation, a professor of sociology at the  
8 College of New Jersey who studies recreancy,  
9 that is people's trust and institutions,  
10 asked the commissioner, how can political and  
11 economic actors expand public trusts in them?  
12 And Commissioner Potosnak's one word was  
13 "transparency."

14 We listened to many people speak  
15 this morning, including one person who spoke  
16 on behalf of hundreds of citizens, and two  
17 New Jersey mayors, all but who have said the  
18 same thing. The people of New Jersey do not  
19 want and do not benefit from the NESE  
20 pipeline.

21 Transparency is not the primary  
22 reason people don't trust institutions. Our  
23 economic and political institutions plan out  
24 ecologically disastrous projects. Regardless  
25 of how transparent they are when doing so,

1 that is the reason people don't trust  
2 institutions, including the Williams  
3 companies, the NJDEP, and every other firm  
4 involved in the previous developments of this  
5 ridiculous proposal.

6 There is no energy shortage.  
7 There is only fossil fuel hegemony and social  
8 inequality. We are asking the Council to  
9 expand our trust them today by voting no on  
10 this proposal. Thank you.

11 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

12 The next speaker is John. No  
13 last name was given.

14 MR. JOHN CONKLIN: My name is  
15 John Conklin. I'm the borough president and  
16 an elected official of -- in Rumson, which is  
17 -- Rumson is located on the -- it's a  
18 peninsula between the Shrewsbury and Navesink  
19 River, just south of the Sandy Hook Bay. And  
20 I speak as -- there's been a lot of talk, and  
21 I'm old enough to remember, the back -- eons  
22 ago, when the General Electric, when the PCBs  
23 and that issue, where contaminants were found  
24 120 miles south of where they were dispersed  
25 into the Hudson River.

1                   So with that thought process, and  
2     also knowing that there were up to 18  
3     Superfund sites in the Raritan Bay watershed,  
4     along with -- you know, by assessments, 100  
5     years of dumping there, I think it is  
6     really -- you know, it is a concern for me  
7     and the residents of this town of what is  
8     going to happen once this pipeline is built,  
9     and those contaminants, which is a potential  
10    toxic cocktail for our rivers, and this is  
11    something that I really feel very strongly  
12    about and feel the need, this should be  
13    considered.

14                  Putting on my personal, just  
15    being -- as a resident and a longtime  
16    resident of the Monmouth County area, I find  
17    it really, really appalling that the aspects  
18    of this pipeline is that New York gets all  
19    the benefits to the pipeline, while the  
20    residents of New Jersey are sitting back and  
21    taking all the economic, environmental, and  
22    ecological risk.

23                  I just find that this is  
24    potentially a backdoor for New York State,  
25    which has said that there's no fracking and

1 no pipelines, to circumvent that. If it is  
2 really in the best interest of New York  
3 State, then why don't they just go through  
4 Pennsylvania and go to New York State.

5 And as a resident, one of the --  
6 of just this great state, one of the things  
7 is it talks about your responsibility is  
8 public necessity.

9 What is the public necessity  
10 within that framework in which the basic core  
11 responsibility is the benefit cost analysis?  
12 And for New Jersey residents, the return is  
13 zero. The cost could be staggering.

14 And my final thought is -- and I  
15 volunteered, I've been on the Council for  
16 close to ten years. I volunteered prior to  
17 that for 20 years. And if I were sitting in  
18 your seat, the question I would want to ask  
19 is: Would I want to live within miles of  
20 that compression station? Would I want -- if  
21 I owned property in the Sandy Hook, Bayshore  
22 area, want to take the risk of what would  
23 happen with the release of these potential  
24 toxins? That is a question I would be asking  
25 if I were sitting in your shoes.

1                   Thank you for hearing my  
2                   thoughts. Have a good day.

3                   MR. RANDY BEARCE: You said your  
4                   last name is Conklin, you said?

5                   MR. JOHN CONKLIN: Yes, sir.

6                   MR. RANDY BEARCE: C-O-N-K-L-I-N.

7                   MR. JOHN CONKLIN: Yes, sir, and  
8                   I live in Rumson, New Jersey, and I am the  
9                   borough -- I am the Council president on the  
10                  borough council.

11                  MR. RANDY BEARCE: Thank you.

12                  MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

13                  The next speaker is Dr. Donna  
14                  Lisi.

15                  Ms. DONNA LISI: Greetings. My  
16                  name is Doctor Donna Lisi. I'm a clinical  
17                  pharmacist, a resident of Franklin Township  
18                  and Somerset County, and chair of the  
19                  Franklin Township Board of Health Advisory  
20                  Council. I appreciate the opportunity to  
21                  speak today regarding the proposed NESE  
22                  pipeline project, and the responsibilities of  
23                  the Tidelands Resource Council.

24                  I would like to focus my comments  
25                  on the connection between title resource



1 protection and public health. The tidal  
2 waterways and coastal ecosystem, under the  
3 jurisdiction of this Council, are not just  
4 environmental assets. They are part of the  
5 foundation of community health in New Jersey.

6 One major concern is the  
7 disturbance of contaminated sediments in and  
8 around the Raritan Bay ecosystem. The  
9 Raritan Watershed and adjoining Harbor  
10 Estuary have a long industrial history and  
11 contain legacy pollutants, including PCBs,  
12 mercury, dioxin, and toxic heavy metals.

13 Our particular concerns are PCBs,  
14 polychlorinated biphenyls, which are  
15 persistent toxic chemicals linked to cancer,  
16 developmental effects, neuroendocrine  
17 disorders, and neurological harm. PCBs  
18 bioaccumulate in fish and aquatic organisms  
19 and are one reason New Jersey has had to  
20 issue fish consumption advisories in these  
21 waters in the past.

22 Dredging and sediment  
23 disturbances raise concerns about  
24 resuspending contaminants that have  
25 accumulated over decades in tidal sediments.

1                   These are not theoretical  
2       concerns. The broader New York, New Jersey  
3       Harbor Estuary has been long recognized as  
4       one of the nation's most contaminated urban  
5       estuaries with documented PCB and mercury  
6       contamination and sediments, and we have been  
7       recovering from these harms ever since.  
8       These contaminants don't simply disappear  
9       when buried in sediment. Persistent  
10      pollutants, like PCBs, can remain in aquatic  
11      environments for decades and move through the  
12      food chain, affecting fish, wildlife, and  
13      potentially human health through  
14      environmental exposure pathways.

15                This particularly concerning in  
16      densely populated regions where communities  
17      rely on these waterways for recreation,  
18      fishing, and overall quality of life. As a  
19      healthcare professional, I am especially  
20      concerned with vulnerable populations, like  
21      children, older adults, pregnant women,  
22      individuals with chronic respiratory disease,  
23      cancer, and cardiovascular disease. And  
24      communities are already disproportionately  
25      burdened by environmental exposures. Public

1 health and environmental protection are  
2 deeply interconnected. Decisions involving  
3 tidelands are also decisions about long-term  
4 community health, environmental justice, and  
5 climate resilience.

6           The role of the Tidelands  
7 Resource Council is critically important  
8 because these waterways and submerged lands  
9 are public trust resources belonging to the  
10 people of New Jersey. That responsibility  
11 requires careful consideration that only of  
12 engineering feasibility, but also cumulative  
13 environmental and public health impacts.

14           New Jersey residents are  
15 increasingly concerned not only about  
16 immediate environmental impact, but also  
17 about cumulative long-term health risks  
18 associated with industrial activity, fossil  
19 fuel infrastructure, and climate-related  
20 environmental stressors.

21           Public trust resources should be  
22 managed with a prevention-oriented public  
23 health approach that prioritizes long-term  
24 community well-being and environmental  
25 resilience. I respectfully urge the Council

1 to apply the highest level of scrutiny to  
2 this project, and to fully uphold its  
3 responsibility as stewards of New Jersey's  
4 title resources and public health and to deny  
5 this license. Thank you for your  
6 consideration.

7 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you. It  
8 is 1:06, and we will take a five-minute short  
9 break and return at 1:11.

10 (Remote meeting recessed at 1:06  
11 p.m. and resumed at 1:11 p.m.)

12 MS. MARILA XIE: The next speaker  
13 is Elizabeth Roedell.

14 MS. ELIZABETH ROEDEL: I am  
15 Elizabeth Roedell. I live in South Brunswick  
16 Township, about one mile from the proposed  
17 Compressor Station 206. I appreciate the  
18 work that the Council does as volunteers, and  
19 I thank you for allowing me to speak today.

20 As previously stated, part of the  
21 proposed NESE project includes laying a  
22 pipeline 23.4 miles offshore, entering the  
23 Raritan Bay and Cheesequake Creek tributary,  
24 through New Jersey Tidelands.

25 Before that, though, the fracked

1 gas pipeline would cross Pennsylvania, a  
2 massive new compressor station is proposed  
3 for Franklin Township, New Jersey, and next,  
4 3.5 new miles of connecting methane gas  
5 pipeline would travel through Old Bridge,  
6 polluting New Jersey's air before entering  
7 the Raritan Bay.

8 If dredging the Raritan Bay will  
9 stir up buried industrial toxic sediment to  
10 contaminate marine life and impact New  
11 Jersey's economy, how does that benefit the  
12 citizens of New Jersey? TRC is entrusted to  
13 protect our resources and quality in the  
14 Tidelands in the interest of all people of  
15 New Jersey. Nothing has changed from the  
16 original NESE application, when New Jersey  
17 DEP denied the water quality permit.

18 Williams Transco failed to  
19 demonstrate, in their second application,  
20 that the Tidelands would not be harmed. I  
21 urge the TRC to deny this license following  
22 the rules governing riparian areas. Thank  
23 you.

24 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

25 The next speaker is Jane Califf.

1 MS. JANE CALIFF: I am the  
2 secretary of 350-NJ Rockland. Rockland is  
3 located in southern New York, and we have  
4 opposed the NESE project from its beginning.  
5 We are an organization, local organization  
6 tied in with international 350.org, which has  
7 been educating the public on the dangers of  
8 fossil fuels and the need for a clean energy  
9 future.

10 And so I want to say that,  
11 yesterday, I was in Franklin Township, in  
12 someone's backyard because nearby the  
13 compressor station is going to be built, that  
14 206, and we are very aware that compressor  
15 stations are built to push mower gas, more  
16 fossil fuel gas, which is not natural gas, is  
17 not natural as some -- a couple of people --  
18 as many people have said so far, and they  
19 leak and they explode. They have fires.  
20 There's been deaths and injuries.

21 And this compressor station is --  
22 many people in this backyard, it was a  
23 backyard meeting, about people in the area  
24 who are very worried about this compressor  
25 station because there are hundreds and

1 hundreds of phone -- of homes in the area,  
2 and they're in a -- they are in danger and  
3 they live within a mile, and that is what  
4 could happen, that could explode and ruin  
5 these homes and kill people and injure  
6 people.

7 But also, unbelievably, there's a  
8 quarry, as somebody mentioned earlier, nearby  
9 that blasts stones with -- stones from the  
10 ground and -- you know, because it is a  
11 quarry. And the houses shake. And so I'm  
12 thinking those houses shake, and the pipeline  
13 is nearby, going to this compressor station.  
14 I mean, that is ridiculous.

15 So on many levels, this is a  
16 terrible idea, and my organization feels that  
17 the Tidelands Resource Council should not  
18 contribute to more fossil fuel pollution.  
19 What we need is renewable clean energy, like  
20 solare and wind, which is now the fastest  
21 growing source of energy and cheapest. That  
22 is what we need. Not cruel wars for fossil  
23 fuel, such as the war of choice in Venezuela  
24 and Iran, which is horrible for us and for  
25 all those people that our bombs have dropped

1 on and killed.

2 So please don't make decision  
3 today. There are court -- please listen  
4 carefully to our comments or just, if you're  
5 taking notes, check them, and then wait until  
6 the court cases and -- are decided. And then  
7 I'm sure that you will see that this is a  
8 terrible idea. So please do not approve the  
9 license or the permits. That is my speech.

10 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

11 The next speaker is Virginia  
12 Wardell.

13 MS. VIRGINIA WARDELL: Hello. I  
14 am Virginia. I am the policy director of  
15 Climate Revolution Action Network. Thank you  
16 for everyone who is speaking today. I've got  
17 so many people in my work on this project  
18 who've been fighting this for around ten  
19 years. I represent Climate Revolution Action  
20 Network, which is a group of over 13,000  
21 Gen-Z members in New Jersey, who I represent  
22 in this comment.

23 If I'm looking away from my  
24 computers because I am looking at my notes.  
25 But we have been born into this world of



1 serious climate damage that will affect us  
2 for the rest of our lives. I also want to  
3 echo another statement that there is no  
4 energy crisis, only resistance to the  
5 transition to clean energy solutions that are  
6 cheaper, safer, and more abundant.

7 Thank you to the Tidelands  
8 committee for taking the time to listen to  
9 all the comments today. I grew up near Sandy  
10 Hook. My family has been New Jersey  
11 residents for generations. We're proud  
12 business owners and environmentalists, and  
13 environmental standards inherently support  
14 our economy.

15 The NESE project reports that  
16 there would be irreversible damage to areas  
17 of the Tidelands. The Tidelands are very  
18 important structures that minimize flooding,  
19 which is worth millions of dollars of  
20 infrastructure. Beyond the cost of immediate  
21 flood mitigation, the cost -- there is cost  
22 to exposure and health risks associated with  
23 the dredging of dangerous metals, including  
24 lead, arsenic, and PCBs.

25 The downstream effects of this

1 project are poisoning future generations,  
2 which the cost is insurmountable. As  
3 previously mentioned, the clamming industries  
4 would also be seriously damaged after we  
5 spent so much time rebuilding this economy.  
6 It will disturb the Superfund site, where  
7 environmental damage has already proven of  
8 great economic burden to New Jersey.

9 Multiple independent studies find  
10 that there is no need for additional energy  
11 in the areas where NESE would serve, which is  
12 not even in New Jersey. The corporations who  
13 may benefit from the pipeline have ample  
14 means to respond to their independent need  
15 for energy in other ways. There have been  
16 money and technology to -- they have the  
17 money and technology to leave our Tidelands  
18 alone in New Jersey. I urge you to consider  
19 the future generations who, if this project  
20 is granted, will carry this burden for the  
21 rest of our lives. Thank you.

22 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

23 The next speaker is Donald Wolfe.

24 MR. DONALD WOLFE: My name is  
25 Donald Wolfe, and I'm from Monroe Township,

1 New Jersey. I've actually fished along the  
2 Raritan Bay, up the Shrewsbury River, and  
3 other parts of the state. Now, I'd thank the  
4 TRC, the Council for letting me speak. I  
5 have already spoken about no air permits and  
6 voted against any water pitch.

7 This does not benefit New Jersey,  
8 I see, in any sense. It is not like the  
9 Gateway tunnel, which helps commuters. This  
10 does not help the commercial fishing  
11 industry. This does not help New York or New  
12 Jersey, except supply fuel and make other  
13 people rich.

14 Have you done any impact studies  
15 on what this will possibly do to the marine  
16 industry, including clambers, recreational  
17 boats, and commercial boating?

18 And that is pretty much what I  
19 have to say. But I'm just -- once again, I  
20 ask you to vote no. Everybody else pretty  
21 much covered what I wanted to say today.  
22 Thank you.

23 MS. MARILA XIE: Thank you.

24 The next speaker is Eileen  
25 Eisenberg.

1 MS. EILEEN EISENBERG: Hi. I am  
2 here, and I thank you for allowing me to  
3 speak today. I am basically speaking from  
4 the heart. I am a born-and-raised-New-Jersey  
5 woman. I am 71 years old. I remember, as a  
6 child, going over the Raritan River in a car,  
7 and my dad saying, "Roll up your windows, it  
8 is polluted, it stinks, it's disgusting."

9 Today, unfortunately, I live less  
10 than a mile from Compressor Station 206, so  
11 -- proposed Compressor Station 206. And yes,  
12 it is on an active blasting quarry, along  
13 with, next to a Superfund site. And my real  
14 question is: I understand that Murphy, for  
15 whatever reason, via pressures from New York,  
16 via pressure from the Trump administration,  
17 he was on his way out, and he approved all  
18 the permits except for this permit.

19 The amount of responsibility that  
20 your committee, and I thank you for your  
21 service, along with Governor Sherrill, to  
22 protect the people of New Jersey is immense.  
23 It's unconscionable that Williams Transco  
24 came back with the same applications that  
25 they have applied with twice before and been

1 denied, and they are now getting what they  
2 want when, in fact, the Neshanic Station,  
3 which is a compressor station west of us,  
4 they are just applying about six or seven  
5 months ago to have all of their numbers  
6 doubled in terms of noxious gases and things  
7 like that.

8 So Transco is known to lie about  
9 the information that they are given. So if  
10 they are now building Compressor Station 206,  
11 one mile from my home, and thousands of  
12 people that live around it, with the old  
13 numbers and that was already approved, why  
14 can we believe the information that these  
15 gentlemen gave you at the beginning of this  
16 meeting that the toxins and the disruption to  
17 the bay and to the Tidelands will be correct?

18 It is not correct. They are  
19 self-monitoring and they are also  
20 self-serving, and it is just so upsetting as  
21 a Jerseyite that we will not get any  
22 benefits. I know everybody who spoke before  
23 me, and yeah, bravo, to all of you, have  
24 given you all of the information in terms of  
25 toxins and all the other stuff.

1                   I am really trying to tell you:  
2     These guys lie. They do not tell you the  
3     truth. And if you buy the truth, you are  
4     really letting down so many New Jersey people  
5     who believe in your ability to save us, and  
6     Governor Sherrill, who is an amazing woman,  
7     and no ability to stop this in any way,  
8     shape, or form, to be able to stand up for  
9     our rights. This is wrong. It is wrong for  
10    us. It is wrong for New York. It's a money  
11    grab. And Transco does not tell the truth.

12                  Please do not vote yes today.  
13    Look at what's going on with -- in the  
14    Neshanic Station. The Neshanic Station,  
15    which is the same as 206, will absolutely  
16    need a lot more safety measures and things  
17    like that. I know this is not your Tidelands  
18    situation, but the whole project, question  
19    yourselves and your moral compass, as to what  
20    the information that you've been getting from  
21    Transco, how right is it? It is never right.  
22    They always revise their numbers, and they  
23    too will revise the toxins that they will be  
24    stirring up in the Raritan Bay, and the  
25    damage that they are going to be doing along

1 the New Jersey and the New York shorelines.

2 So thank you for allowing me to  
3 speak. I appreciate it. And, please, do the  
4 right thing, please.

5 MR. TOM VOLTAGGIO: Chairperson,  
6 or -- you have your mic on -- you have your  
7 mic muted.

8 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Yes.

9 MR. TOM VOLTAGGIO: Tom  
10 Voltaggio. This -- there's been lots of  
11 people, it looks like we may be coming to the  
12 last one. Is there any sense, you or Randy,  
13 would like to discuss about can we, at this  
14 point, put in -- you know, find an end with  
15 one or two more people, or do you need to  
16 stay here until 6 o'clock in the evening?

17 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Well, it  
18 looks like we had one more person who was  
19 signed up, and we did say because people were  
20 having difficulty getting into the chat that  
21 we would recognize a show of -- a show of  
22 hands. And I would expect that, given the  
23 number of people that have spoken, we won't  
24 see a lot more people that raise their hand  
25 after we finish with the last speaker. We

1 are not going to stay here still 6 o'clock.

2 MR. TOM VOLTAGGIO: My question  
3 really becomes, when do we know, is there  
4 some possibility we could define what our  
5 last speaker -- how many more people would be  
6 able to be spoken for -- that we set up a  
7 last speaker. It is three and a half hours.

8 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Why don't  
9 we do this now. If there is anyone present  
10 at this meeting who has not spoken and would  
11 like to speak, please raise their hand.

12 Okay, I am seeing no hands. So I  
13 am going to say that Scarlett Knight will be  
14 our final speaker.

15 MR. TOM VOLTAGGIO: All right,  
16 great. Thank you.

17 MS. MARILA XI: Scarlett Knight,  
18 whenever you are ready.

19 MS. SCARLETTE KNIGHT: Thank you.  
20 My name is Scarlett Knight. Thank you for  
21 allowing me to speak today. I am a New  
22 Jersey resident, a high school senior, and a  
23 Gloucester County resident. Now, I am  
24 clearly not one of the residents who will be  
25 directly affected by this pipeline.



1                   However, as climate change has  
2 shown us repeatedly across our planet, a  
3 negative environmental decision anywhere  
4 affects people everywhere. I stand today  
5 with my fellow New Jersey residents and  
6 constituents up north, and I urge you to take  
7 into consideration, with great care, what  
8 they have said today.

9                   The experts who have spoken, the  
10 attorneys, the residents, they all have  
11 clearly articulated how harmful this pipeline  
12 will be to our state. The only new  
13 perspective I can add today is that of a  
14 young New Jersey resident. Last month, I  
15 turned 17 years old, but as I look to the  
16 future, I can't help but fear environmental  
17 destruction, to be frank.

18                  It is my responsibility to stand  
19 up for all other young people of our state  
20 and to advocate for their health, safety, and  
21 economic prosperity. Your decision not only  
22 affects the residents of Monmouth County and  
23 all others who would reside near the  
24 pipeline, but also sets a precedent for all  
25 future environmental decisions in our state.

1 I urge you to vote no today, or  
2 to at least delay your decision. Thank you  
3 so much for your time. I very much  
4 appreciate it.

5 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Thank you,  
6 and thank everyone who has spoken.

7 I really don't want to delay this  
8 proceeding any longer, but I am going to make  
9 a motion that we move into executive session  
10 right now. There's been some comments  
11 regarding our authority to act in pending  
12 litigation that I would like to get more  
13 information about. So how are we going to do  
14 that?

15 MR. RANDY BEARCE: We would need  
16 a motion and a second to do that.

17 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Okay.

18 MR. JOE GRABAS: Before we go, I  
19 just want to make sure, when we come back,  
20 are the people from Transco still on the line  
21 and will we be able to speak to them  
22 afterwards?

23 MR. RICHARD SCOTT: Yes, we are  
24 here.

25 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: All in

1 favor of moving into executive session?

2 (Ayes)

3 MR. NICOLAS SEMINOFF: I just  
4 need to make a statement into the record.

5 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Okay.

6 MR. NICOLAS SEMINOFF: The  
7 Council has voted to go into executive  
8 session, so that I, Nicolas Seminoff, the  
9 deputy attorney general advising the Council,  
10 can provide legal advice to them. The Open  
11 Public Meetings Act provides that a public  
12 body, such as the Tidelands Resource Council,  
13 may meet in closed executive session to  
14 discuss any pending or anticipated litigation  
15 in which the public body is or may become a  
16 party, whereas the Tidelands Resource Council  
17 desires to retire at a closed session to  
18 discuss attorney-client privileged issues  
19 related to anticipated litigation related to  
20 the Transco gas pipeline application.

21 Now therefore, be it resolved  
22 that the Tidelands Resource Council shall at  
23 this time, meet in closed session to discuss  
24 the above-mentioned matter. The substance of  
25 the closed session will be disclosed

1 publicly, only when the threat of litigation  
2 has passed, or when such release would not  
3 breach an attorney-client privilege.

4 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Thank you.

5 MS. CINDY ZIPF: I have a quick  
6 question. Will you come back publicly for  
7 the vote to return to the meeting?

8 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Absolutely.  
9 Yeah.

10 MS. CINDY ZIPF: Oh, okay.  
11 Great.

12 And what is the quorum of the --  
13 and what is the vote for a passage? It is 12  
14 members, right? So it would be 7?

15 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: So we have  
16 7 members present. It is the majority of the  
17 members present. We have 7 members present,  
18 so we would need six.

19 MR. RANDY BEARCE: It is a  
20 majority of the active members serving on the  
21 Council not present in any one given meeting.  
22 There is currently 11 active members serving  
23 on the Council. So a quorum for approval is  
24 six. There are currently seven members  
25 present at this meeting.

1 MS. CINDY ZIPF: Thank you for  
2 the clarification.

3 MR. RANDY BEARCE: You all can  
4 hold on to this meeting. For the council  
5 members, we weren't able to create a separate  
6 break-out room like we normally would do, so  
7 there is a separate meeting scheduled. You  
8 should have that, that you could join that  
9 meeting. You should automatically go on hold  
10 and be able to join that meeting. If you  
11 have any problems going back to the original  
12 meeting, you should just be able to log back  
13 in the way you entered the meeting.

14 (Discussion off the record.)

15 (Remote meeting Council exited  
16 into executive session at 1:32 p.m. and  
17 resumed at 2:22 p.m.)

18 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: I believe  
19 that there are council members that would  
20 like to ask questions of the Applicant.

21 MR. JOE GRABAS: So my first  
22 question to Transco, and who am I directing  
23 this to? Who is on the line here?

24 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Mr. Scott.

25 MR. RICHARD SCOTT: I will

1       quarterback and pass it off if there is  
2       somebody else that may be better suited for  
3       the answer.

4                   MR. JOE GRABAS:   So, are you  
5       going to answer my questions, Mr. Scott?

6                   MR. RICHARD SCOTT:   That is my  
7       plan, yes, the best I can.

8                   MR. JOE GRABAS:   I just want to  
9       make sure.

10                  MR. RICHARD SCOTT:   I got it.

11                  MR. JOE GRABAS:   The first  
12       question is, has Transco ever before done a  
13       project like this where there is horizontal  
14       underground directional drilling underneath  
15       the water?   Okay.   Have you ever done that  
16       before?

17                  MR. RICHARD SCOTT:   I will defer  
18       that to Stephen Kellogg.   I know we have done  
19       HDD before.   I myself have been involved in  
20       those projects, mostly on the onshore  
21       context.   So, you know, I know we did --  
22       Transco did one in, you know, the Princeton  
23       ridge area for its Leidy Southeast project.

24                  I think they had multiple HDDs in  
25       certain areas there on that project.   But

1 I'll -- to answer your specific question  
2 about in-water HDDs, Stephen Kellogg, I will  
3 throw that to you.

4 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: Thank you,  
5 Rich, and I am not sure I can cite specific  
6 projects, but throughout the history of  
7 Transco, we've done both water-to-water  
8 drills and shore-approach drills, and have  
9 completed those successfully.

10 MR. JOE GRABAS: Okay. And have  
11 any of those resulted in an environmental  
12 disaster?

13 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: Not to my  
14 knowledge, no. I would maybe ask you to  
15 define "environmental disaster." But yeah,  
16 no, nothing that comes to mind for me.

17 MR. JOE GRABAS: Okay. Can you  
18 tell me a little bit about CORRTREAT? How is  
19 that going to be utilized? What is going to  
20 be done with the discharge? What's its  
21 purpose, and how its going to effect the  
22 environment, if anything.

23 Once again, Chairman, I would ask  
24 you to direct the folks who are on the call  
25 that they don't get to question me or the

1 Applicant about things. Okay. That is not  
2 how this process works. We're not going to  
3 be doing and -- you know, cross-examination  
4 here. I am talking to the Applicant right  
5 now. They need to stay off the chat that is  
6 not how this works.

7 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Please do  
8 stay off the chat.

9 MR. JOE GRABAS: Okay. Go ahead.

10 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: Thank you.  
11 So I know that the CORRTREAT issue has been  
12 raised before, before FERC, as well as the  
13 NJDEP, and they both responded to it. But I  
14 think, generally speaking, and again, Steve  
15 MacLeod, if you want to jump in or kick me  
16 under the table, but I'll take a first crack  
17 at it.

18 My understanding is that  
19 CORRTREAT is used to -- is used to control  
20 internal corrosion of the pipeline. It -- it  
21 was analyzed for this project by FERC and  
22 NJDEP. It specifically was concluded that  
23 the use of CORRTREAT, it won't expire, it's  
24 biodegradable, and it would not have any  
25 adverse impacts on water quality, you know,



1 if it's used.

2 MR. JOE GRABAS: Okay. But it is  
3 going to be pushed through the pipeline, and  
4 it's going to be released into the water; is  
5 that correct?

6 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: Yeah. I  
7 believe that is correct, Mr. Grabas.

8 MR. JOE GRABAS: Okay. What you  
9 call -- my other question is, there was a --  
10 a question about this running through this  
11 Raritan Bay Slag Superfund site. Can you  
12 tell me about that?

13 MR. STEPHEN KELLOGG: Sure. So  
14 the Raritan Bay Slag Superfund site, that is  
15 essentially being crossed via the HDD. So  
16 that is near the Morgan shore, shore-to-water  
17 HDD. The disturbance of the -- so we are not  
18 disturbing any area within the area of that  
19 Superfund site that is subject to  
20 remediation.

21 I think some of the temporary  
22 workspace is near what's referred to as the  
23 "study area." There is some study areas  
24 related to the Superfund site, but we are not  
25 disturbing any areas that are being subject

1 to, like, the lead -- I believe it's lead  
2 remediation.

3 Steven MacLeod, I don't know if  
4 you have anything else you want to add to  
5 that.

6 MR. STEVEN MacLEOD: Sure, Rich.  
7 This is Steven MacLeod. I'm with WSP. I'm a  
8 environmental consultant for Transco on this  
9 project, helping with the regulatory aspects.

10 That is exactly right. The slag  
11 site, the Raritan Bay Slag site would, for  
12 the most part, be crossed by HDD. So the  
13 pipe would be up to 90 feet below the surface  
14 in that location. We do come out at the  
15 currently planned HDD exit point in the  
16 water, again, as Rich said, in a study area,  
17 where they were assessing the amount of  
18 contaminants.

19 And when we did our site-specific  
20 sediment chemistry analysis, we found that  
21 there were elevated levels of contaminants,  
22 but not at the extreme levels that were  
23 identified as part of the main Superfund  
24 site. Particularly lead was elevated, but  
25 not at the levels that -- of the areas that

1 were subject to more recent remediation.

2 MR. JOE GRABAS: And again, what  
3 was the depth of disturbance that you said  
4 underneath that site, how far down?

5 MR. STEVEN MacLEOD: The  
6 horizontal directional drill pipe, it would  
7 be installed below the surface and that --

8 MR. JOE GRABAS: How far below?

9 MR. STEVEN MacLEOD: Yeah, it  
10 goes to, I believe -- let me see, something  
11 like 90 feet.

12 MR. JOE GRABAS: 90 feet.

13 MR. STEVEN MacLEOD: And Steve  
14 Kellogg may be able to confirm that.

15 MR. JOE GRABAS: So it is not  
16 like two or three feet below the surface, it  
17 is 90 feet?

18 MR. STEVEN MacLEOD: Right.

19 MR. JOE GRABAS: Okay.

20 MR. STEVEN MacLEOD: Up to 90  
21 feet.

22 MR. JOE GRABAS: Okay. My last  
23 question is: There is -- obviously were some  
24 questions about disturbance of the seabed and  
25 resuspension of pathogens and things of that

1 nature. Once again, what is the level of  
2 disturbance that is going to occur, and what  
3 is the degree of pathogens that you have  
4 calculated will be potentially released?

5 MR. STEVEN MacLEOD: Rich, would  
6 you like me to continue on that point?

7 MR. RICHARD SCOTT: Sure, that  
8 would be great.

9 MR. STEVEN MacLEOD: Yeah, so  
10 based on the chemistry analysis that we did,  
11 there were areas in New Jersey Waters,  
12 particularly near that Morgan Shore, HD  
13 crossing, where there were contaminants that  
14 were, based on screening levels, exceeded  
15 certain toxicity criteria.

16 But not at levels that you might  
17 see in other areas of the port of New York or  
18 New Jersey or other ports that have higher  
19 elevations, higher levels of elevated  
20 contaminants. What we found at -- is that  
21 for those elevated -- those areas with  
22 elevated contaminants, Transco committed to  
23 doing clam shell dredging with an  
24 environmental bucket. This is at -- per  
25 direction from the agencies, and this is

1 essentially the same kind of method that is  
2 used to remediate contaminated sites, such as  
3 work in the Hudson River.

4 So this would be dredged, and  
5 then backfilled with clean sand so that  
6 ultimately the sense is that what covers the  
7 pipe is non-contaminated material.

8 MR. JOE GRABAS: Okay. All  
9 right. Those are my questions.

10 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Do other  
11 council members have any more questions of  
12 the Applicant?

13 MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: I will just  
14 stay on with Transco for a moment. Is there  
15 any portion of your work that you require a  
16 temporary license to perform the work? And  
17 if so, that you apply for it? That is my  
18 question.

19 I guess I can as much -- request  
20 that Randy, maybe you are the better person  
21 to answer that. Is what in front of --  
22 what's in front of us, as I understand it, is  
23 that is a license for the permanent  
24 structure, and is there any necessity to  
25 secure a temporary license for the other

1 work?

2 MR. RANDY BEARCE: No, not that I  
3 am aware of.

4 MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: Thank you.

5 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Anyone  
6 else? Council members?

7 I think we have come to the point  
8 where we can take action. Is there a motion  
9 to approve the staff recommendation?

10 MR. JOE GRABAS: So I would move  
11 the staff's recommendation with the proviso  
12 that, A, the license would be limited to  
13 seven years for review after that time, and  
14 also that we include some of the checks and  
15 balances that one of our council members, I  
16 believe it was Andy, had talked about  
17 earlier.

18 MR. ANDREW RAICHLE: And I -- I  
19 can recite those if it's necessary. I'll  
20 just read them off again. One is for the  
21 Applicant to provide as-built drawings of the  
22 structure once it is in place, or the  
23 improvement.

24 The second being that the  
25 licensee provide the council with copies on

1 -- any regulatory inspections that are  
2 related to the integrity of the pipe.

3 And the third one is just  
4 recognition of the provisions that if the  
5 improvement was not made in a timely manner  
6 that the -- you know what, I'll strike the  
7 third one. Thank you.

8 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Councilman  
9 Gaine, do you have a comment?

10 MR. NED GAINES: I think also  
11 included in those provisions is the  
12 abandonment, returning to previous condition,  
13 and maintaining permit conditions throughout.

14 MR. JOE GRABAS: Yes, I agree to  
15 that.

16 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: All right.  
17 We have heard the motion. Is there a second?

18 MR. TOM VOLTAGGIO: I'll second  
19 it.

20 MR. JOE GRABAS: Before we go  
21 forward with the vote, I do want to say this,  
22 what's before the Council is an application  
23 for a license. The permits have already been  
24 issued. We are relying upon the work of the  
25 DEP and FERC and the other individuals. We

1 are not the experts in that area. We deal  
2 with land transactions. That is our job.

3 So based upon that, we are now  
4 going to take a vote based upon what's been  
5 presented to us in the application, the  
6 information that we've heard, and based upon  
7 our policies that have been established over  
8 the years.

9 MR. TOM VOLTAGGIO: I'll second  
10 that too.

11 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Council has  
12 been provided with a wealth of information on  
13 this project. All the DEP permits, the  
14 response to comment documents, the FERC  
15 approvals. So we've had a chance to study  
16 this project.

17 Mr. Scott, do you want to say  
18 something before we move on?

19 MR. RICHARD SCOTT: I just had a  
20 question about -- I don't think we have an  
21 issue with the conditions that were  
22 expressed.

23 The only one that I have pause on  
24 is the seven-year extent to the license,  
25 given that I -- I know typically we would do



1 -- either the Council would issue a 24-year  
2 license. It is a license, I think legally it  
3 is revocable. So I just wasn't sure what the  
4 added benefit, if there really is one, to the  
5 seven years. I just didn't -- this project  
6 is a long-term -- you know, obviously, we  
7 have an existing pipeline in the bay. It's  
8 been there since '67 -- '68, I think is when  
9 they installed it. They got the license in  
10 '67.

11 I just wanted to throw that out  
12 there, that I didn't really see the -- I am  
13 not sure I understand that the point of the  
14 seven years. I understand, like, you know  
15 the -- providing the reports and ensuring  
16 that, you know, we're in compliance with  
17 certain requirements. That was all.

18 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: I think the  
19 seven years was an opportunity -- to give us  
20 an opportunity to have council review the  
21 project and the license fee within seven  
22 years -- well, in the event that there are  
23 changes to our utility policy.

24 MR. RICHARD SCOTT: Okay. I  
25 understand. I think because we our agreement

1 with National Grid is for 20 years, so, you  
2 know, we have certain obligations to maintain  
3 that -- you know, maintain, you know, that  
4 service.

5 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: All right.  
6 Are we ready for a vote? All in favor say  
7 "aye."

8 [Ayes]

9 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Opposed,  
10 extensions or recusals?

11 Staff recommendation and licenses  
12 approved.

13 Thank you all for being with us  
14 today. It's been a long meeting. So thanks  
15 for your perseverance.

16 And with that, is there a motion  
17 to adjourn?

18 MR. JOE GRABAS: So moved.

19 MR. TOM VOLTAGGIO: I'll second  
20 it.

21 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: All in  
22 favor?

23 (Ayes)

24 MS. MARY PAT ROBBIE: Opposed?

25 Thank you, everyone, again.

1 We'll see you in June.

2 (Remote hearing concluded 2:37

3 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, RITA GARDNER, Notary Public of  
the State of New Jersey and a Registered  
Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that  
the foregoing is a true and accurate (to the  
best of my ability) transcript of the  
testimony as taken stenographically by and  
before me at the time, place and on the date  
hereinbefore set forth.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am  
neither a relative nor employee nor attorney  
nor counsel of any of the parties to this  
action, and that I am neither a relative or  
employee of such attorney or counsel, and  
that I am not financially interested in the  
action.

Dated: May 13, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita Gardner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RITA GARDNER

Notary Public of the State of New Jersey

|                                       |                       |                      |                        |
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| <b>x</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>y</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>x</b> 28:16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>y</b> 28:16<br><b>yacht</b> 47:16<br><b>yards</b> 61:22<br>97:21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| <b>z</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>z</b> 28:16 159:21<br><b>zero</b> 122:4<br>150:13<br><b>zinc</b> 126:4<br><b>zipf</b> 41:5,7,9<br>44:17 171:5,10<br>172:1<br><b>zoe</b> 2:7 69:10<br>69:16,19<br><b>zombie</b> 144:14<br><b>zone</b> 34:21<br>43:13 86:12<br>90:5                                             |

New Jersey Rules Governing Civil Practice

Part IV, Rule 4:14

Depositions Upon Oral Examination

4:14-5. Submission to Witness; Changes; Signing

If the officer at the taking of the deposition is a certified shorthand reporter, the witness shall not sign the deposition. If the officer is not a certified shorthand reporter, then unless reading and signing of the deposition are waived by stipulation of the parties, the officer shall request the deponent to appear at a stated time for the purpose of reading and signing it. At that time or at such later time as the officer and witness agree upon, the deposition shall be submitted to the witness for examination and shall be read to or by the witness, and any changes in form or substance which the witness desires to make shall be entered upon the deposition by the officer with a statement of the reasons given by the witness for making them. The deposition shall then be signed by the witness. If the witness fails to appear at the time stated or if the deposition is not signed by the witness, the officer shall sign it and state on the record the fact of the witness' failure or

refusal to sign, together with the reason, if any, given therefor; and the deposition may then be used as fully as though signed, unless on a motion to suppress under R. 4:16-4(d) the court holds that the reasons given for the refusal to sign require rejection of the deposition in whole or in part.

DISCLAIMER: THE FOREGOING CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1, 2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE STATE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

## VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS

### COMPANY CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Veritext Legal Solutions represents that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct and complete transcript of the colloquies, questions and answers as submitted by the court reporter. Veritext Legal Solutions further represents that the attached exhibits, if any, are true, correct and complete documents as submitted by the court reporter and/or attorneys in relation to this deposition and that the documents were processed in accordance with our litigation support and production standards.

Veritext Legal Solutions is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of client and witness information, in accordance with the regulations promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as amended with respect to protected health information and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, as amended, with respect to Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Physical transcripts and exhibits are managed under strict facility and personnel access controls. Electronic files of documents are stored

in encrypted form and are transmitted in an encrypted fashion to authenticated parties who are permitted to access the material. Our data is hosted in a Tier 4 SSAE 16 certified facility.

Veritext Legal Solutions complies with all federal and State regulations with respect to the provision of court reporting services, and maintains its neutrality and independence regardless of relationship or the financial outcome of any litigation. Veritext requires adherence to the foregoing professional and ethical standards from all of its subcontractors in their independent contractor agreements.

Inquiries about Veritext Legal Solutions' confidentiality and security policies and practices should be directed to Veritext's Client Services Associates indicated on the cover of this document or at [www.veritext.com](http://www.veritext.com).



# State of New Jersey

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OF WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION BUREAU OF TIDELANDS MANAGEMENT

MIKIE SHERRILL  
Governor

P.O. Box 420, Mail Code 501-02B  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420  
Tel. (609) 292-2573 • Fax (609) 292-8115  
[dep.nj.gov/wlm/tidelands](http://dep.nj.gov/wlm/tidelands)

ED POTOSNAK  
Acting Commissioner

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL  
Lt. Governor

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company  
Timothy Powell  
2800 Post Oak Blvd  
Houston, TX 77056

RE: TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY, Utility License application, Cheesequake Creek Tributary, Raritan Bay, Lot N/A, Block N/A, Sayreville Boro, Middlesex County

FILE: #1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001

Dear Mr. Powell:

Please find the license document for the above-referenced project enclosed with this correspondence.

As stated in the license document, it is the responsibility of the licensee to submit the annual fee within thirty days of the yearly due date. The license contains a clause providing for an annual inflation adjustment of 2.5 percent. This license also takes into account special conditions set forth by the Tidelands Resource Council at the May 6, 2026 meeting.

Prior to the expiration of this license, the licensee is responsible for submitting an application to renew the license. The Tidelands Resource Council will review and may revise the annual fee at the time of renewal. Any changes in the annual license fee introduced after the expiration of this license will be retroactive to the date of termination.

Sincerely,

Randy Bearce  
Manager  
Bureau of Tidelands Management

RB/kk  
encl.

cc: Steven MacLeod  
Assistant Vice President  
WSP  
40 La Riviere Drive  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Richard G. Scott, Esq.  
2052 Route 35, Suite 103  
Rivers Edge Professional Building  
Wall, NJ 07719



**REVOCABLE LICENSE**  
**A Rental Agreement from the State of New Jersey**

The Tidelands Resource Council in the Department of Environmental Protection, empowered under N.J.S.A. 13:1B-13 to approve licenses of lands owned by the State of New Jersey that are now or were formerly under tidewater, having due regard for the public interest, has approved a license to **TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY, LLC**, hereafter referred to as the licensee(s).

The licensee(s) has applied for the right to rent an area of land now or formerly under tidewater across the Cheesequake Creek Tributary and Raritan Bay extending offshore in Sayreville Boro, Middlesex County, New Jersey for the use of a public utility and/or utility related structures. More specifically this is for the installation and continued use and maintenance of a new gas pipeline known as the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) project consisting of a 26-inch diameter natural gas pipeline and any associated construction including the Cathodic Protection (CP) power cable, and concrete mattress as applicable. The license is specifically for the area or square footage of the utility line crossing on, under, or over any formerly or currently flowed tidelands, including portions of the Madison Loop pipeline crossing any formerly or currently flowed tidal creek(s) including the Cheesequake Creek tributary in Sayreville, and the CP cable and those portions of the Raritan Bay Loop pipeline crossing the Raritan Bay within State of New Jersey waters. The licensed activity and licensed area are further described below:

The area to be licensed encompasses a total of 93,894 square feet and is depicted on the two plans entitled, **“NORTHEAST SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT PROPOSED 26” MADISON LOOP OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP & SAYREVILLE BOROUGH MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**”, dated May 21, 2025, prepared by Jason Schooling of PS & S LLC, and plan entitled **“NORTHEAST SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT PROPOSED 26” RARITAN BAY LOOP MIDDLESEX & MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**”, dated May 21, 2025, prepared by Jason Schooling of PS & S LLC, filed with the Bureau of Tidelands Management of the Department of Environmental Protection under file number 1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001. The project must be constructed in compliance with NJDEP Land Use Universal Permit file #0000-25-0012.1 LUP250001 approved on November 7, 2025 with an expiration date of November 6, 2030. The general route of the licensed pipeline is depicted on the **attached Exhibit A and Exhibit B maps**.

The license shall be in effect for a period of seven (7) years from **June 3, 2026 to June 3, 2033**. The license fee shall be **\$14,084.00** for the first year but will include **an annual inflation adjustment of two and a half percent**. **See the attached Schedule A fee schedule.**

The annual rental is due on **June 3** in advance of each year of the license. All payments received thirty days after the due date shall be assessed a late fee of \$25.00. All fees or partial fees which remain past due for more than ninety days after said due date shall accrue interest at the rate set by the Tidelands Resource Council until received by the State. Additionally, if a check is returned for non-sufficient funds, a \$25.00 charge will be assessed to the licensee(s).

This license may be revoked at any time and for any purpose deemed necessary and reasonable by the Tidelands Resource Council in the Department of Environmental Protection.

The licensee(s) must either apply for a license renewal or remove all structures at the expiration of the said period of seven (7) years. The State of New Jersey is not bound to make any renewal of the license. If a renewal is approved, a new annual fee may be fixed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Should the license be revoked or should the licensee(s) fail to pay the fee for each year of the license or to renew the license by the end of the expiration date, and/or if the project is not completed, at the end of its service life, and/or the pipeline is abandoned at any time in the future, the licensee(s) must promptly vacate the tidelands at the licensee(s) expense, removing any and all structures within the tidelands in a timely fashion to the satisfaction of the Department of Environmental Protection (including the payment of any fees that may have accrued). Failure to appropriately vacate the tidelands may result in the filing of a lien against the licensee(s) property by the State of New Jersey. The State of New Jersey also reserves the right to pursue additional fees for the continued use and occupation of tidelands by the structures, or any portion thereof, for as long as they remain within tidelands, up until time of their removal regardless if the license or any future license remains in effect.

Should the licensee(s) wish to make any alterations to the license area, the licensee(s) is required to apply for a license modification. If a modified license is approved, a new annual fee may be fixed by the Department of Environmental Protection. Any modification may also require the necessary regulatory permit approvals as a separate obligation as applicable.

This license may be assigned or otherwise transferred by the licensee(s) to any other person or persons with the written consent of the Manager of the Bureau of Tidelands Management of the Department of Environmental Protection. Forms are available from the Bureau for this purpose. The license must be assigned in the event that the licensee(s) sells the entirety of the utility and/or utility related structures prior the expiration date of this license. The annual fee will still be due should the license not be appropriately assigned.

The licensee(s) may not further improve or develop the licensed area unless a permit, as per N.J.S.A. 12:5-3, is obtained for that purpose. The licensee(s) may not appropriate the licensed area for exclusive use.

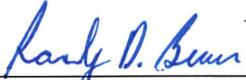
**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:**

1. The rights of the Licensee are exclusive within the Licensed Area and intended use, with the exception that the Council may grant licenses to cross the pipeline at its sole discretion. This License conveys no rights to the Licensee to regulate or restrict activities within State Tideland areas that adjoin the Licensed Area. Therefore, the issuance of the license does not give the right to exclude other future crossing of the pipeline, provided those lines received all necessary approvals and do not interfere with the safe operation of licensee's facilities within the license area.
2. Upon completion of the installation of the project, a post construction as-built site plan showing the centerline of the project (including the pipeline and CP line) and the location or segments where any concrete mattress was installed must be prepared and submitted to the Bureau of Tidelands Management.<sup>1</sup> The licensee must also report if there is any change or modification to the overall square footage of the license area (see Schedule A Note: Fee Schedule Amendment).
3. The licensee or its successors shall submit copies to the Tidelands Resource Council of any post-construction regulatorily required hydrographic and bathymetric survey reports, and in-line inspection reports required by the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration which will establish the location, depth, and condition of the

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<sup>1</sup> This information will be maintained by the Bureau but may be deemed confidential to comply with any regulatory safety or security requirements as applicable.

pipeline within the license area.<sup>2</sup> Any future license renewal application will also require a pipeline status update.

PREPARED BY:  DATE: 6/5/26  
Randy D. Bearce  
Manager  
Bureau of Tidelands Management  
N.J.S.A. 46:26A-3

APPROVED BY:  DATE: 7/10/2026  
Nicolas Seminoff  
Deputy Attorney General

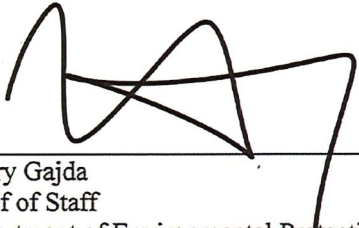
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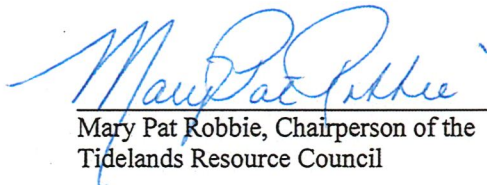
<sup>2</sup> This information will be maintained by the Bureau but may be deemed confidential to comply with any regulatory safety or security requirements as applicable.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the State of New Jersey has caused these presents to be signed by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Chairperson of the Tidelands Resource Council, and has caused the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey to be hereunto affixed, and has caused these acts to be concurred in by the Attorney General and attested

 ~~Chief of Staff~~ to by the Secretary of State this 17 day of July, 2026

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Gajda  
Chief of Staff  
Department of Environmental Protection  
6/18/26  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Pat Robbie, Chairperson of the  
Tidelands Resource Council  
Date 6/15/26

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
~~Dr. Dale G. Caldwell~~ ~~Dr. Julie Bunt~~   
Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of State  
7/17/26  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Davenport  
By A. Paul Stofa  
Assistant Attorney General  
Attorney General  
Date 7/15/2026

STATE OF NEW JERSEY )  
 )  
COUNTY OF MERCER ) SS:

*Dr. Julie Bunt*  
*ECV*  
BE IT REMEMBERED that on this 17 day of July, 2026 before me, a Notary Public of New Jersey, *she* *Chief of Staff to* *ECV* personally appeared ~~Dr. Dale G. Caldwell~~, who being by me duly sworn on his oath, says that ~~he~~ is the Secretary of State of the State of New Jersey, the LICENSOR named in this instrument; that ~~he~~ knows the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey; that the Seal affixed to this instrument is that seal and was affixed by him as the act and deed of the LICENSOR; that on the date each signatory executed this instrument each held the office attributed to them, i.e., Jennifer Davenport was the Attorney General, and that the authority to review and sign this LICENSE was delegated to A. Paul Stofa, Assistant Attorney General, and in AAG Stofa's absence, Assistant Attorney General Jessica Palmer, in a document entitled "Tidelands Delegation", dated March 9, 2026, filed with the Secretary of State, with a copy filed in the records of the Tidelands Resource Council recorded March 10, 2026 in Liber L-15 page 184, Mary Pat Robbie was the Chairperson of the Tidelands Resource Council, and Ed Potosnak was the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, and that he delegated his authority to review, approve, and sign this LICENSE to Henry Gajda, via Memorandum dated March, 31, 2026, filed with the Department, and that he knows their signatures and that they signed this instrument as the act and LICENSE of the State of New Jersey; and that this LICENSE was concurred in by the Attorney General and that the consideration to be paid for this LICENSE is provided in accordance with the attached Schedule A - Annual License Fees.

*ECV*  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
~~Dr. Dale G. Caldwell~~ *Julie Bunt*  
~~Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of State~~  
*Chief of Staff to*  
Date 7/17/26

Sworn to and Subscribed  
Before me the date aforesaid

*Karen A. Orozco Huete*  
\_\_\_\_\_

A Notary Public of the State of New Jersey

(This instrument was reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's Office of the State of New Jersey.)



**SCHEDULE A**

**Annual License Fees**

Fee Schedule based on the Utility or Utility Related Projects (Adopted 10/06/10) policy  
**[https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/wlm/downloads/tidelands/td\\_012.pdf](https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/wlm/downloads/tidelands/td_012.pdf)**

| Fee Year | Start Date | End Date   | Base Fee | License area<br>(sqft) | Fee Amount |
|----------|------------|------------|----------|------------------------|------------|
| Year 1   | 06/03/2026 | 06/03/2027 | \$0.15   | 93,894                 | \$14,084   |
| Year 2   | 06/03/2027 | 06/03/2028 | \$0.15   | 93,894                 | \$14,084   |
| Year 3   | 06/03/2028 | 06/03/2029 | \$0.16   | 93,894                 | \$15,023   |
| Year 4   | 06/03/2029 | 06/03/2030 | \$0.16   | 93,894                 | \$15,023   |
| Year 5   | 06/03/2030 | 06/03/2031 | \$0.16   | 93,894                 | \$15,023   |
| Year 6   | 06/03/2031 | 06/03/2032 | \$0.17   | 93,894                 | \$15,962   |
| Year 7   | 06/03/2032 | 06/03/2033 | \$0.17   | 93,894                 | \$15,962   |

Note: Fee Schedule Amendment (as applicable)

As approved at the May 6, 2026 TRC meeting, The license area for the total square footage of the structures to occupy tidelands is 93,894 square feet and the price calculation is based on the square footage multiplied by the current rate or base fee of \$0.15 sq.ft utility fee beginning in 2026 established in the current TRC utility policy. There is a 2.5% inflator increase applied against the base rate so the cost of the license will increase accordingly with the increase in the base rate.

The license fee is based on a total license area of 93,894 sqft and the license fee will begin at \$14,084 per year and increase over time as provided in the above fee schedule.

However, in a portion of the Raritan Bay Loop, the proposed pipeline will cross an existing cable, the Neptune Regional Transmission Cable. There are two proposed scenarios for the crossing – a shallow crossing and a deep crossing. The final placement for the proposed Transco pipeline will be determined based on the depth of the Neptune Cable during construction. Both crossing options are approved under the issued NJDEP Land Use permit #0000-25-0012.1 LUP250001.

**SCHEDULE A continued**

The tidelands utility license area referenced in the above Schedule A is for the shallow crossing scenario, where a larger square footage will be required due to the placement of additional concrete mattresses needed to protect the pipeline at this shallower depth. If it is determined that the deep crossing (which is preferred by the licensee) is possible, the total license area would be reduced from 93,894 sq. ft. to 83,865 sq. ft. due to the smaller area of concrete mattresses needed.

As required under SPECIAL CONDITION 2, the licensee is required to submit a post construction as-built site plan and advise if the license area calculation has changed and provide the revised square footage (if applicable) and the license will be modified with a "Fee Schedule Amendment" to reflect the revised annual fee and fee schedule.

However, there will be no refund or amendment to any prior fees paid or due prior to the Bureau of Tidelands Management being provided with a post construction as-built site plan and notification of any change to the license area.

All the other terms and conditions of the license will remain in effect.





- Raritan Loop
- Madison Loop
- CP Loop

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

NOTE:

This exhibit is intended for the property owner's reference and convenience only. This exhibit was not prepared by an NJPLS and is not a survey of the conveyance area.

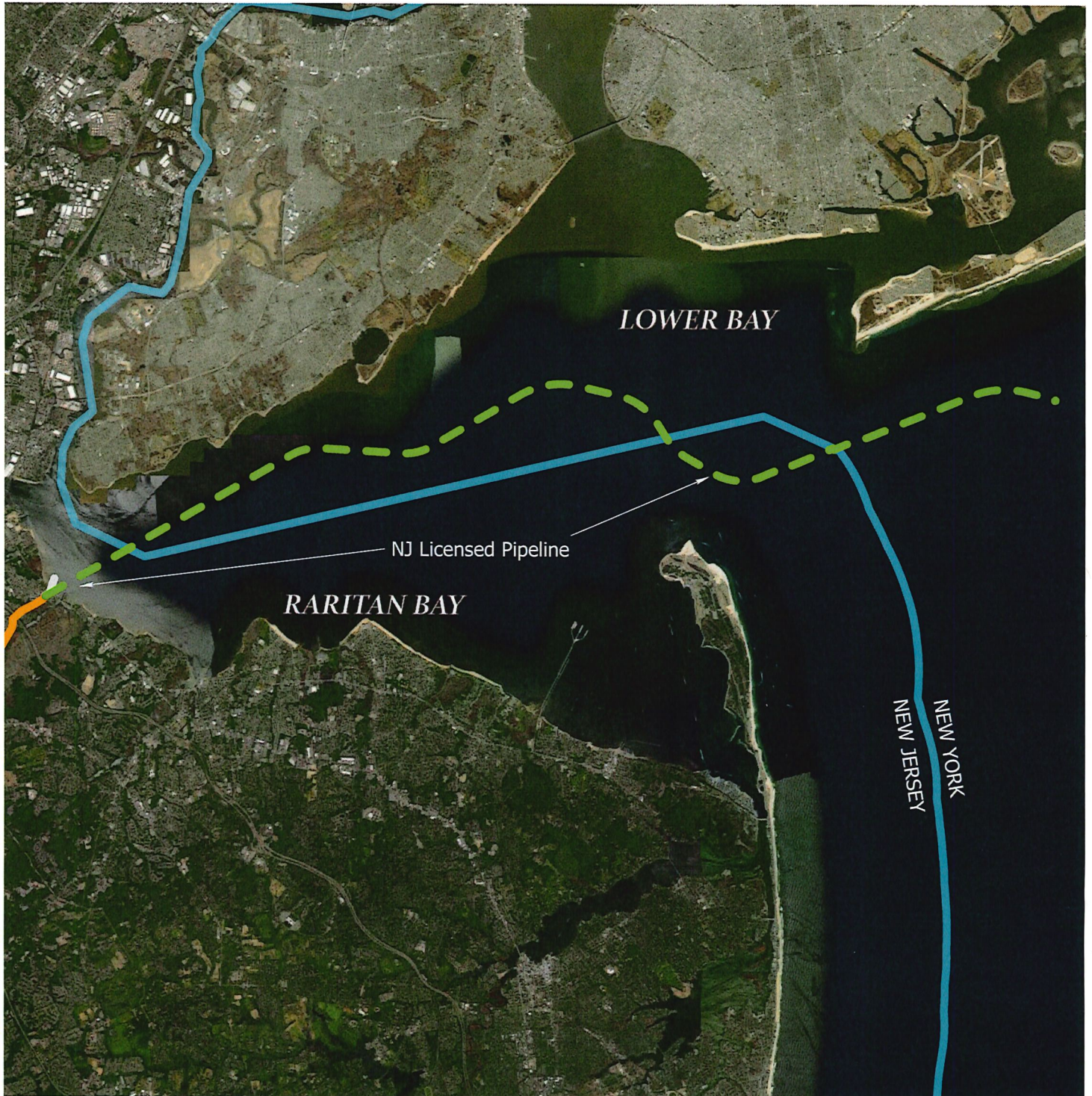


NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

BUREAU OF TIDELANDS MANAGEMENT  
MAP SHOWING  
LANDS UNDER TIDE-WATER SITUATE  
IN THE BOROUGH OF SAYREVILLE  
IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX  
LICENSE TO:  
WILLIAMS/TRANSCO NESE

DATED: 6/15/26





- Raritan Loop
- Madison Loop
- CP Loop
- NJ/NY State Boundary Line

0 1 2 4 Miles

NOTE:

New Jersey licensed segment includes those portions within New Jersey waters only.

This exhibit is intended for the property owner's reference and convenience only. This exhibit was not prepared by an NJPLS and is not a survey of the conveyance area.



**NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

BUREAU OF TIDELANDS MANAGEMENT  
MAP SHOWING  
LANDS UNDER TIDE-WATER SITUATE  
IN THE BOROUGH OF SAYREVILLE  
IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX  
LICENSE TO:  
WILLIAMS/TRANSCO NESE

DATED: 6/15/26



**DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**  
**EASTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER**  
**ONE GATEWAY CENTER**  
**SUITE 2600**  
**NEWARK, NJ 07102**  
**973-424-1166**  
**dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**

Before Appellate Division,  
Superior Court of New Jersey  
DOCKET NO.

**STATE AGENCY**

**IN THE MATTER OF 1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001**  
**TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY,**  
**UTILITY LICENSE CHEESEQUAKE CREEK**  
**TRIBUTARY & RARITAN BAY, SAYREVILLE BORO,**  
**MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that an original of the following documents, **CERTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL IDENTIFIERS, NOTICE OF APPEAL, TRIAL COURT ORDER/JUDGMENT/DECISION (06/12/2026), TRIAL COURT OPINION (05/06/2026), TRIAL COURT ORDER/JUDGMENT/DECISION (07/10/2026), PROOF OF SERVICE, CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT** were submitted and transmitted to the parties listed below in the following format:

ELECTRONICALLY TO:

**ATTORNEY NAME: SOOKIE BAE-PARK, Esq.**

**dol.appeals@law.njoag.gov(DOLAPPEALS@LPS.STATE.NJ.US;**  
**DOLAPPEALS@LPS.STATE.NJ.US)**

**ATTORNEY NAME: RICHARD G SCOTT, Esq.**

**rscott@rutterroy.com; croy@rutterroy.com; fmiele@rutterroy.com**

**ATTORNEY NAME: NICOLAS G SEMINOFF, Esq.**

**nicolas.seminoff@law.njoag.gov**

**STATE AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

BY MAIL:

I certify that the forgoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

**Attorney for APPELLANT**  
**CENTRAL JERSEY SAFE ENERGY**  
**COALITION**

Dated: **07/27/2026**

By: **S/ DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**



New Jersey Judiciary  
Superior Court - Appellate Division  
**Civil Case Information Statement**

Please type or clearly print all information.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title in Full<br><b>IN THE MATTER OF 1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001<br/>TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY,<br/>UTILITY LICENSE CHEESEQUAKE CREEK<br/>TRIBUTARY &amp; RARITAN BAY, SAYREVILLE BORO,<br/>MIDDLESEX COUNTY</b> | Trial Court or Agency Docket Number<br><b>1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Appellant's Attorney \*** Email Address: **dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**

☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☒ Other (Specify) **INTERVENOR**

|                                                        |                                                            |                    |                     |                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Name<br><b>DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.</b>               | Client<br><b>CENTRAL JERSEY SAFE ENERGY<br/>COALITION*</b> |                    |                     |                                         |
| Street Address<br><b>ONE GATEWAY CENTER SUITE 2600</b> | City<br><b>NEWARK</b>                                      | State<br><b>NJ</b> | Zip<br><b>07102</b> | Telephone Number<br><b>973-424-1166</b> |

**Respondent's Attorney \*** Email Address: **dol.appeals@law.njoag.gov**  
**DOLAPPEALS@LPS.STATE.NJ.US**

☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☒ Other (Specify) **STATE AGENCY**

|                                                  |                                           |                    |                          |                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Name<br><b>SOOKIE BAE-PARK, Esq.</b>             | Client<br><b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</b> |                    |                          |                                         |
| Street Address<br><b>25 MARKET ST PO BOX 112</b> | City<br><b>TRENTON</b>                    | State<br><b>NJ</b> | Zip<br><b>08625-0112</b> | Telephone Number<br><b>609-984-3900</b> |

Give Date and Summary of Judgment, Order, or Decision Being Appealed and Attach a Copy:

**At a meeting of the Tidelands Resource Council (TRC), on May 6, 2026, the TRC voted to approve a tidelands instrument for the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company's proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) project. The TRC meeting minutes, were signed and approved on June 12, 2026, by the DEP Commissioner's delegate, Henry Gajda, Chief of Staff. Tidelands, also known as riparian lands, are all lands that are now or were formerly flowed by the mean high tide of a natural waterbody (such as the ocean, bays, and tidal sections of rivers and creeks, and also includes marshlands inundated by the tide). The State of New Jersey owns in fee simple all lands that are flowed by the tide up to the high-water line and claims ownership of those formerly flowed tidelands as delineated on the Tidelands Claims Maps. These state-owned tidelands are held in trust for the people of the state. All tidelands are overseen by the Tidelands Resource Council, a board of twelve Governor-appointed volunteers, along with DEP staff at the Bureau of Tidelands Management. According to the App. Div. rules, the 45 day timeframe (R. 2:4-1(b)) to appeal the TRC/DEP's final agency decision runs from June 12, 2026, to Monday, July 27, 2026. See Jersey Shore Beach & Boardwalk Co. Inc. v. N.J. Tidelands Res. Council, No. A-0684-24, 2026 N.J. Super. Unpub. LEXIS 211, (App. Div. Feb. 9, 2026).**

Have all the issues as to all the parties in this action, before the trial court or agency, been disposed? (These claims may include counterclaims, cross-claims, third-party claims, and applications for counsel fees.) ☒ Yes ☐ No

If outstanding claims remain open, has the order been properly certified as final pursuant to R. 4:42-2? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

A) If the order has been properly certified, attach copies of the order and the complaint and any

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other relevant pleadings to the order being appealed. Attach a brief explanation as to why the order qualified for certification pursuant to R. 4:42-2.

B) If the order has not been certified or has been improperly certified, leave to appeal must be sought. (See R. 2:2-4; 2:5-6.) Please note that an improperly certified order is not binding on the Appellate Division.

If claims remain open and/or the order has not been properly certified, you may want to consider filing a motion for leave to appeal or submitting an explanation as to why you believe the matter is final and appealable as of right.

Were any claims dismissed without prejudice?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If so, explain and indicate any agreement between the parties concerning future disposition of those claims.

Is the validity of a statute, regulation, executive order, franchise or constitutional provision of this State being questioned? (R. 2:5-1(b)(4)) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Give a Brief Statement of the Facts and Procedural History:

**The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an approval for the project and the NJ DEP issued land use and coastal development permits (including requisite Water Quality Certificates) for the proposed pipeline project. There are currently pending legal challenges in federal court. These pending legal challenges have been assigned Docket #: 25-2938 in United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Case #: 26-1253 in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.**

**The DEP's land use and coastal development permits (including the requisite Water Quality Certificates) are conditioned upon Transco's receipt of the requisite Tidelands Instruments, for use of the State owned tidelands, which is at issue in this instant appeal. The TRC and the DEP issued its final decision to approve of Transco's application to use the State owned tidelands for the proposed pipeline project on June 12, 2026. The DEP issued the actual Tidelands instrument to Transco on July 10, 2026, when it was signed by the Deputy Attorney General.**

To the extent possible, list the proposed issues to be raised on the appeal as they will be described in appropriate point headings pursuant to R. 2:6-2(a)(6). (Appellant or cross-appellant only.):

**1 - The TRC/DEP decision is arbitrary and capricious.**

**2 - The TRC/DEP decision is contrary to the NJ DEP's legislative mission and its expressed policy statements.**

**3 - The TRC/DEP decision is in violation of the Tidelands Act, at N.J.S.A. § 12:3-12.1, because the TRC and DEP erroneously determined, and failed to present a credible record to prove, that the NESE project is in the public interest.**

**4 - The TRC/DEP decision is in violation of the Tidelands Act, at N.J.S.A. § 12:3-12.1, because the TRC and DEP erroneously determined, and failed to present a credible record to prove, that the State will not have a future use for the Tidelands at issue.**

**5 - The TRC/DEP decision is in violation of the Tidelands Act, at N.J.S.A. § 12:3-26, because the TRC and DEP erroneously determined, and failed to present a credible record to prove, that the compensation to be paid, and all other reasonably foreseeable costs and benefits of the project, are in the interests of the State.**

**6 - The project is not in the public interest because it is inconsistent with the the goals, strategies, policy objectives and policies of the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan) adopted pursuant to the New Jersey State Planning Act and the State Planning Act rules, because the project is inconsistent with the State's climate change agenda. See N.J.A.C. 7:7A-10.2(B)(12)(i).**

**7 - The project is not in the public interest because the record does not prove there is a positive balance between the economic costs and benefits, both public and private, of the proposed regulated activity to the**

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page 2 of 6

general area. See N.J.A.C. 7:7A-10.2(B)(12)(vi).

**8 - The project is not in the public interest because this project is unwise from a sustainability perspective. Approving pipelines on public land commits society to decades of fossil fuel dependency at a time when climate science calls for rapid decarbonization. This project crowds out investment in renewable energy and conservation solutions that better align with the long-term public interest. Infrastructure built today shapes energy policy for generations, regardless of future public will. This pipeline on public land is not in the public interest because it privatizes benefits while socializing risks, degrades irreplaceable resources, entrenches climate-damaging infrastructure, and undermines the long-term purposes of public land stewardship. True public interest demands decisions that prioritize environmental protection, intergenerational equity, and shared benefits, not short-term private gain.**

**9 - The TRC/DEP final decision included procedural defects because the DEP's final decision to approve the TRC's May 6, 2026 meeting minutes was not the subject of any meaningful public participation, and the entire process was not governed by any duly promulgated regulations, as required by New Jersey's Administrative Procedure Act. N.J.S.A. § 52:14B-3.**

If you are appealing from a judgment entered by a trial judge sitting without a jury or from an order of the trial court, complete the following:

1. Did the trial judge issue oral findings or an opinion? If so, on what date? \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Did the trial judge issue written findings or an opinion? If so, on what date? \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Yes ☒ No
3. Will the trial judge be filing a statement or an opinion pursuant to R. 2:5-1(d)? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Unknown

**Caution:** Before you indicate that there were neither findings nor an opinion, you should inquire of the trial judge to determine whether findings or an opinion was placed on the record out of counsel's presence or whether the judge will be filing a statement or opinion pursuant to R. 2:5-1(d).

Date of Your Inquiry:

1. Is there any appeal now pending or about to be brought before this court which:

- (A) Arises from substantially the same case or controversy as this appeal? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- (B) Involves an issue that is substantially the same, similar or related to an issue in this appeal? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If the answer to the question above is Yes, state:

|            |                     |            |
|------------|---------------------|------------|
| Case Title | Trial Court Docket# | Party Name |
|------------|---------------------|------------|

2. Was there any prior appeal involving this case or controversy? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If the answer to question above is Yes, state:

Case Name and Type (direct, 1st PCR, other, etc.)

**IN THE MATTER OF 1219-25-0004.1 TDI250001**

**TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE COMPANY,  
UTILITY LICENSE, CHEESEQUAKE CREEK TRIBUTARY  
& RARITAN BAY, SAYREVILLE BORO, MIDDLESEX  
COUNTY**

Appellate Division Docket Number

**A-004004-25**

Civil appeals are screened for submission to the Civil Appeals Settlement Program (CASP) to determine their potential for settlement or, in the alternative, a simplification of the issues and any other matters that may aid in the disposition or handling of the appeal. Please consider these when responding to the following question. A negative response will not necessarily rule out the scheduling of a preargument conference.

State whether you think this case may benefit from a CASP conference.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Explain your answer:

**This project is in stark violation of numerous laws and contradicts the DEP's core mission.**

(\*) truncated due to space limit. Please find full information in the additional pages of the form.

Whether or not an opinion is approved for publication in the official court report books, the Judiciary posts all Appellate Division opinions on the Internet.

I certify that confidential personal identifiers have been redacted from documents now submitted to the court, and will be redacted from all documents submitted in the future in accordance with Rule 1:38-7(b).

**CENTRAL JERSEY SAFE ENERGY COALITION**

Name of Appellant or Respondent

**07/27/2026**

Date

**016102005**

Bar #

**DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**

Name of Counsel of Record  
(or your name if not represented by counsel)

**s/ DANIEL A GREENHOUSE, Esq.**

Signature of Counsel of Record  
(or your signature if not represented by counsel)

**dgreenhouse@easternenvironmental.org**

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New Jersey Judiciary  
Superior Court - Appellate Division  
CIVIL Case Information Statement

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Name

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☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☒ Other (Specify) **STATE AGENCY**

Name

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Appellant's attorney email address continued below

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