



**Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors
of Long Island, Inc.**
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August 30, 2019

Don Conway
President

Via E-mail

Mr. Basil Seggos
Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-1011

John Bifulco
Vice President

Nick Hartcorn
2nd Vice President

Re: Impact of Recent New York State Decision to Reject
Application for Northeast Supply Enhancement Project

Ron Doughty
Treasurer

Dear Commissioner Segos:

Thomas Blacharski
Secretary

I am the President of the Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors of Long Island, Inc. ("PHCCLI"). PHCC is a national organization representing thousands of licensed plumbing and HVAC contractors throughout the country for over 100 years. The PHCC promotes higher-quality work and safety, as well as offers continuing education, utility/manufacturer training on equipment, apprenticeship programs, updates regarding developments in the industry, marketing information, business management instruction, workers' compensation coverage, and other valuable services to its members. Locally, the PHCCLI additionally performs numerous public education and public service functions.

Joseph Cornetta
Past President

John DeLillo
Executive Director

I write today to address the recent decision by New York State to reject National Grid's Northeast Supply Enhancement Project gas pipeline application, and to register the PHCCLI's disagreement with this decision.

Allison Wieland
Deputy Director

The PHCCLI cannot analyze in detail the specifics of New York State's stated environmental concerns. On a general level, it does acknowledge that environmental issues must be responsibly faced. At the same time, it notes that what appear to it to be similar pipelines have operated and provided an essential source of natural gas for many years without incident. The PHCCLI can, however, discuss in detail the impact that the lack of natural gas supply, and National Grid's corresponding policy of not approving applications for new natural gas service, has on local consumers, plumbers, suppliers, industry and public safety.

Patrick Sullivan
Counsel

On a large scale, the inability to install new gas service will impede construction (residential and commercial), business and industry growth, and corresponding jobs. Some examples include the new developments in the Nassau Hub, and the new Islanders arena planned for the Belmont area. It will also prevent compliance with new post-Sandy rules requiring that entities such as hospitals, gas stations and water districts have emergency standby gas generators.

Commissioner Basil Segos

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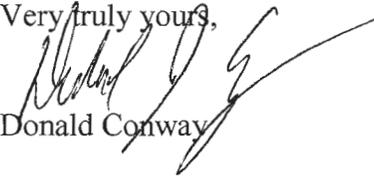
This problem will impact homeowners who will be unable to convert to or expand an existing use of natural gas service. It will also conflict with governmental priorities such as constructing new affordable/workforce housing.

On a separate economic level, the lack of demand for equipment and installation services will trickle down from consumers to plumbers to suppliers. With respect to plumbers in particular, the summer and early autumn is a peak season for performing gas installations. Customers do not have to go without heat while the work is performed, and plumbers are able to provide such services without interruption from weather-related emergencies and priorities such as frozen pipes and malfunctioning heating systems.

In sum, the PHCCLI anticipates that the present and future crisis arising from the inability to increase natural gas supply to meet demand will cause a variety of negative, and substantial, consequences. For the reasons stated herein, the PHCCLI supports approval of the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project pipeline.

Please contact me if you believe that a discussion or meeting would be useful in trying to find solutions to these challenges, or if you believe the PHCCLI can assist in providing additional information or other assistance regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,


Donald Conway

cc: Ms. Karen Gaidasz, NYSDEC Div. of Environmental Permits
PHCCLI Executive Committee