

 **NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**
NRPC ENERGY FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
03/13/15

Members Present:

Eric Hahn, Amherst	Mark Bender, Town Administrator - Milford
Tad Putney, Town Administrator - Brookline	Sarah Marchant, City of Nashua
Kat McGhee, Hollis Pipeline Impact Study Taskforce	Kermit Williams, Town of Wilton
Elvis Dhima, Town of Hudson	Others Present
Tom Young, Town of Litchfield	David Beach, Amherst
Steve Wells, Mason	Gene Porter, LMRLAC
Tim Thompson, Town of Merrimack	John Greene, Congresswoman Kuster's Office

STAFF PRESENT

Tim Roache, MPO Coordinator Sara Siskavich, GIS Manager Karen Baker, Program Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Williams called the meeting to order at 2:08pm.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Williams asked if anyone present from the public wished to speak. Gene Porter, Chair of the Lower Merrimack Local Advisory Committee introduced himself. He informed the group that the LMRLAC is taking no position on the pipeline and that if the ½ mile portion of the proposed pipeline route that will cross over the river is going to happen, the LMRLAC wants to make sure that it happens right.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2015

Roache asked if there were any comments or changes to the draft EFAC minutes from March 6, 2015 meeting. Thompson motioned to approve the minutes of March 6, 2015 with a second from McGhee. All were in favor with one abstention.

UPDATE ON IMPACTS DATA GATHERING

Williams informed the group of the meeting that he, McGhee & Wells had attended with the OEP & the PUC. There, they acquired an analysis of gas demand in MA prepared for the MA Department of Energy Resources. Dhima brought questions from the Town of Hudson with him that were answered by Kinder Morgan regarding infrastructure and safety and right of way impact. Williams notified the group that Kinder Morgan was doing an updated ESRI release. Siskavich had not seen this yet and had no knowledge of the impact on the route. McGhee heard the northern portion was going to be backed out of 101A in Merrimack and re-routed back into Hollis. Roache questioned if this was just speculation as he had not seen anything yet. There was discussion the status of the Towns' responses to the AECOM letter. Amherst said their report was almost done and the draft would be public and posted on the Amherst Town website. Both Merrimack and Milford had already submitted their reports.

Environmental (NRPC)

Roache informed the group that he learned that AECOM would be sending a letter directly to NRPC, which would be the bulk of the environmental analysis from this group.

Construction Impacts (Mark Bender, Tom Young)

Bender informed that he has talked with Young and came up with questions to be submitted to Kinder Morgan but was unsure how to submit them; on the behalf of the Town of Milford or on behalf of NRPC. Young said he has quite few contacts in construction that have done pipeline work that could come and talk to us. Williams had concerns with having general pipe workers not working on the project. Young said they

would be able to answer basic questions on pipeline. Williams suggested adding subject matter experts to the list. Bender said he would work on that.

Economic Impacts (Sarah Marchant, Tad Putney)

Marchant informed the group that Putney and she came up with groups of people to talk to. They came up with Dennis Delay with the Center for Public Policy for unbiased opinions. Williams informed the group that they are contracted with Kinder Morgan to do this work. They also came up with the NH Assessors Association for valuation of property and impacts with and without pipeline; Justin Kates with Emergency Management, PSNH (now Eversource) and Chamber of Commerce Resources. Putney informed the group of the other question that he and Marchant came up regarding Spectra vs. Kinder Morgan and the economic impact between the 2 proposed pipeline routes. Putney also asked that any town that had received the estimated annual revenue letters from Kinder Morgan to please forward that information to Marchant and Putney. Hahn commented that the estimates are based on the linear footage of the pipeline using the current route. Porter wanted to know what economic impact of the damage to public access along the river would be.

Historic (Tim Thompson & Hal Lynde)

Thompson said he was waiting on information from the assistant town finance person. He also talked about a region-wide historic analysis that might be useful. McGhee suggested getting in contact with Freedom's Way. Thompson asked that the group pass along the contacts to he and Lynde for them to contact regarding Historic Resources in each of the towns.

Infrastructure and Safety Impacts (Eric Hahn & Elvis Dhima)

Hahn informed the group that he would be meeting with Dhima over the weekend regarding safety data specific to the northeast region. He was looking at similar population densities to the northeast from areas in the Washington DC area and north. Dhima talked about pipes and sizes and his discussions with the Hudson Fire Department regarding accidents or incidents. The Fire Department was not aware of any incidents with existing pipelines in Hudson. There was a question on whether Hudson had an Emergency Response Plan for pipelines. Dhima was not aware of any. There was discussion between Williams and Dhima regarding the open house held in Hudson and auto shut-offs for the pipelines in case of emergency. Hahn commented that in towns with existing gas, more than 90% are 3rd party strikes that cause problems. Roache said road crossings and bridges would be a NRPC GIS in regards to infrastructure and on how the pipeline would be crossing them. He added that for the environmental analysis there would be some crossover in the different categories (e.g. infrastructure, historic). Porter questioned asked for specific data for safety issues with regards to river crossings, quantified for the northeast. Dhima asked how far back to get data for 3rd party strikes in towns with existing gas. Hahn suggested 10 years. Williams suggested getting info on how prepared towns are for natural gas spills or incidents. There was further discussion on the requirements and training/liasons for towns on safety with gas issues.

Demand & Need Analysis (Kat McGhee & Steve Wells)

McGhee elaborated some on the meeting that she, Williams and Wells attended where there was talk about the 10 year energy plan and the lack of resources to implement. She continued saying they had questions answered on energy positions, how decisions are made, the process used, which part the state plays as a role in the whole process. There was further discussion from McGhee, Williams and Wells on their meeting and cost effective solutions and strong demand for gas. Williams asked the group to forward any contacts for people that the group should speak to so he can get in touch with them to set up a meeting. NRPC would be working on getting a meeting set up with FERC. Williams emphasized with the group to define effective questions when having people in to talk to.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE WORKPLAN: MILESTONES AND TIMELINE

Siskavich provided a schedule on screen and reviewed with the group. She pointed out the high level recommendation that the group should have for the Commission by April for the Executive Committee. Next would be a good draft by May to review and get comments to then bring to the full Commission in June. Williams had concerns if there was info that is not made available or finalized yet. Siskavich said they would then have a snapshot in time showing what is done and not done. Roache informed the group that this schedule came about based on information on filings back in December. He added that the Executive Committee can vote on behalf of the Commission or a special meeting can be called for the issue of schedule modifications

There was discussion on bringing in Alan Foree from Kinder Morgan and Eric Tamasi from FERC. Greene said to make a determination of the meeting to have and then get FERC in ASAP. Wells suggested meeting with Conservation Law Foundation or a gentleman from academia at Franklin Pierce.

Williams commented on the tight schedule and the importance of getting Kinder Morgan and FERC to meet with the group. He suggested they meet in teams with the other contacts and bring back information to the group. McGhee suggested PUC also. Williams did not think they would get anymore from them then they already did with the meeting they attended today.

There was suggestion by Roache to skip the meeting on March 20th and resume on March 27th. The schedule, minutes from this meeting would be included with the agenda for the meeting on the 27th.

OTHER BUSINESS

Roache summarized that the contacts and questions were lined up and responses were next. Dhima and Hahn will report out on Transportation Infrastructure and Safety at the next meeting. NRPC will work on Environmental and GIS based info.

Porter commented that he had been talking with other people and researching pipeline river crossings and felt that best way to do this is with horizontal directional drilling of which Kinder Morgan is not committed to. He asked that what processes there were on river crossing techniques. Roache suggested putting his questions on the docket. Porter added that there were Lower Merrimack River experts on river crossings and to utilize them. Bender said he had them on his list.

Beach commented that the pipeline river crossings drafts have been known to change even after being approved. Dhima commented that when it comes to HDD, that can change during construction if they run into a problem. He added that he was going to push for access to the site as an observer if it happens in Hudson.

Putney thanked Greene for coming to the meetings and asked if there was anything new with the Congresswoman. He referred a letter sent that all towns be provided with information and town hall style/open houses be done. Thompson emphasized that the towns should request to have scoping meetings. He added that they are different than the open houses and that agency meetings are behind closed doors. Bender referred to the Committee Hearing on Energy with Kinder Morgan being held on March 25th. Williams said he would sign up to speak.

NEXT MEETING

Motion to Adjourn came from Thompson with a second from Bender. The meeting ended at 3:23pm. The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 27th, 2015 from 2:00-3:30pm.