THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD
ONE SOUTH STATION
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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Robert Shea, Presiding Officer

DATE: November 15, 2013

RE: Algonquin Incremental Market Project, FERC Docket No. PF13-16-000

As you may be aware, Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC ("Algonquin" or "Company") has begun its pre-filing process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") for authorization to construct and operate the Algonquin Incremental Market Project ("Project"). The Project involves the expansion of the Company's existing natural gas pipeline system in New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The portion of the Project to be constructed in Massachusetts consists of 4.9 miles of new pipeline to be located in West Roxbury, Dedham, and Westwood.

Although FERC has the authority to approve or disapprove interstate pipeline facility proposals such as the Project, the Energy Facilities Siting Board participates in FERC proceedings to preserve the rights of interested residents of the Commonwealth. **The Siting Board staff will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Dedham Holiday Inn, 55 Ariadne Road, Dedham, Massachusetts, to hear directly from residents, officials and other interested persons about their concerns relating to the Project.** Representatives from Algonquin will be available to describe the Project and answer questions.

The Siting Board seeks written comments concerning the proposed Project. Comments should be sent either by mail to the Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, Attention: Robert J. Shea, Presiding Officer, or by email to robert.j.shea@state.ma.us. The comments must be RECEIVED by December 6, 2013. Please note that on October 15, 2013, the Siting Board staff filed the enclosed letter with FERC that presented preliminary comments on the Project. These comments to FERC will be supplemented with the additional input received through the process described in this memorandum.

If you have any questions, please contact the Presiding Officer:

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One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3514
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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

October 15, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, Docket No. PF 13-16-000

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board (Siting Board), an administrative agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in conjunction with the pre-filing phase of the FERC proceeding for FERC docket PF 13-16-000, Spectra Energy's Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) Project.

The statutory mission of the Siting Board is to ensure that construction of certain energy facilities in Massachusetts, jurisdictional to the Board, will be consistent with providing a "reliable energy supply for the Commonwealth with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost." G.L. c. 164, § 69H. Among other responsibilities, the Siting Board is required by regulation to intervene when an interstate natural gas pipeline company applies to FERC to construct or modify facilities within Massachusetts. The EFSB participates in the pre-filing phase of FERC proceedings in order to preserve the rights of interested citizens of the Commonwealth as dictated by the Siting Board's statutory mandate.

Accordingly, the Siting Board has monitored filings and public comments posted on the FERC website for AIM, and has attended a number of AIM-related meetings. These meetings include an open house held by Algonquin for the Massachusetts portion of its pipeline on August 14, 2013, and two FERC-facilitated meetings in Massachusetts, an inter-agency meeting held the afternoon of October 3, 2013, and a public scoping meeting held on the same date in the evening.

FAX: (617) 443-1116
www.mass.gov/dpu

Based on its review of AIM documents and staff participation in public and inter-agency meetings held in Massachusetts to date, the Siting Board offers these preliminary comments as directed in the September 13, 2013, Notice to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the AIM project. The Siting Board will review and comment on the resource reports for this project when they are issued. Current estimates indicate likely release of the project resource reports at the end of October.

Our review to date suggests that construction along the proposed route could adversely affect traffic flow that is already frequently congested, particularly during typical morning and evening rush hours. The Siting Board suggests that FERC encourage Algonquin to get input, if it has not already done so, from officials in Boston, West Roxbury, Dedham, and Westwood, on timing construction to mitigate traffic congestion to the extent possible. The Siting Board recommends that Algonquin make a special effort to consult with the offices of the Mayor of Boston and the City Councilor for West Roxbury on this topic. The draft EIS should include an analysis of the potential for nighttime construction in non-residential areas. Such analysis should include information based on the above input. In addition, the Siting Board suggests that FERC urge Algonquin to consult with the City of Boston in particular, but with Dedham and Westwood as well, to ensure the coordination of any and all plans to repave streets along AIM's proposed route. Specifically, the draft EIS should identify any current, proposed and future projects including road repair and utility installations that may occur along the 4.9-mile AIM route or in the immediate vicinity. Algonquin should, in addition, consult at its earliest convenience with health, safety, and security personnel along the AIM route to address public safety issues and to guarantee passage of emergency vehicles.

The Siting Board also notes the location of part of the AIM route near a local quarry, West Roxbury Crushed Stone. Members of the public at Algonquin's open house in August, and at the FERC scoping meeting more recently, indicated that the use of explosives at the quarry has previously caused damage to nearby properties. They expressed concern that the AIM pipeline may also suffer structural damage because it will be installed close enough to the quarry to expose it to vibration and shock from blasting activities. The Siting Board notes that similar concerns might be anticipated in conjunction with the proposed West Roxbury meter station as well. Specific comment on that facility is premature, however, since neither the location nor a site plan for the meter station are yet available for public review. The Siting Board recommends that Algonquin investigate any past incidences of property damage associated with quarrying at West Roxbury Crushed Stone and, as appropriate, incorporate measures to protect AIM facilities from comparable mishaps. In addition, Algonquin should, in response to general concern, provide a detailed explanation as to why quarrying activities will not crack or otherwise impair AIM facilities at the northeastern end of the West Roxbury lateral.

Local residents have also expressed concern that blasting may be a necessary part of the excavation process to lay the proposed pipeline. Among residents' concerns is that such blasting may cause damage to property. The Siting Board requests that Algonquin address this issue in the draft EIS as well as through public communication, by letter or otherwise, with abutters to the proposed pipeline route.

The Siting Board will continue to monitor eLibrary postings to PF 13-16-000 on the FERC website. As noted earlier in this letter, the Siting Board will review and comment upon resource reports for AIM as they become available. The pending resource reports should include complete environmental and other information regarding the proposed new metering and regulating stations in West Roxbury and Assonet, Massachusetts, the new lateral launcher and receiver facilities in Westwood Massachusetts, and modifications to eight existing metering and regulating stations at Massachusetts locations primarily in Middlesex and Norfolk Counties.

The Siting Board appreciates efforts by FERC to facilitate its participation and the participation of other Massachusetts agencies in FERC's pre-filing process for AIM. The Siting Board looks forward to on-going communication with FERC as AIM moves beyond the pre-filing process to the actual project application filing, now expected by the end of the first quarter of 2014.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Shea

Robert J. Shea
Presiding Officer

cc: Mr. Douglas Sipe (FERC)
Ms. Maggie Suter (FERC)