

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-65
Resolution Concerning the Williams/Transcontinental Company
Raritan Bay Pipeline

WHEREAS, Williams/Transcontinental Company (Williams/Transco) is proposing to build a 23.4 mile natural gas pipeline through Raritan Bay from Old Bridge to Rockaway New York; and,

WHEREAS, the project would not in any way serve New Jersey residents, the demand for more gas being described by Williams as being in Brooklyn and Queens, NY, where residents are reportedly switching from oil heat to gas; and the proposed Williams/Transco pipeline will be transporting fracked gas.

WHEREAS, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Food and Water Watch, ReThink Energy, and other groups have expressed serious concerns, based on safety and health issues, for their residents as well as concern about potential harm to the environment, and local and county infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, the Williams/Transco pipeline goes under Raritan Bay, a gas leak, fire or explosion could contaminate this precious New Jersey Bayshore natural resource; and,

WHEREAS, there have been explosions and/or fires at or within at least nine Williams Partners or Williams/Transco facilities or infrastructure, including one on March 31st in Washington state that injured five people and led to the evacuation of people within a two mile radius of the facility; and,

WHEREAS, the pipeline will cause seafloor disturbance and as a result negatively impact recreational and commercial fishing industries; and

WHEREAS, limitation of global temperature increase due to the greenhouse effect depends on the replacement of CO2- emitting energy sources by other sources as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, Williams/Transco has not shown the results of their pipeline test to the governing bodies in any of the towns through which this 54 year old pipeline runs; and,

WHEREAS, the gas compressor station has been constructed on land immediately adjacent to a PSE&G electrical station which, when the Susquehanna-Roseland project is completed in 2015, will have an electrical capacity of 500,000 or more volts; and,

WHEREAS, there are very few examples in the country, if any, of a gas compressor station being located right next to a major electrical station.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Township of Aberdeen, County of Monmouth opposes the construction and installation of a 23.4 mile natural gas pipeline through Raritan Bay from Old Bridge to Rockaway New York. Construction of the pipeline would adversely impact the health of Raritan Bay, shellfish and other benthic habitat, and recreational activities for surrounding communities.

Be It Further Resolved that the Township of Aberdeen urges Williams Company to eliminate any further consideration for a pipeline.

Be It Further Resolved that the Township of Aberdeen urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to deny any application for a pipeline and urge its representatives of the United States Congress, United States Senate and New Jersey Legislature to oppose this pipeline application.

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be certified and forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; US Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez; Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman; Congressman Frank Pallone; NJ Senator Bob Smith; Assemblymen Joseph Egan and Joe Danielsen.