



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS  
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

## RESOLUTION 19-115

### RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE WILLIAMS/NESE RARITAN BAY PIPELINE AND URGING THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO CONDUCT A HEARING ON THE BAYSHORE AND EXTEND THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**WHEREAS**, Williams is proposing the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project to build a 23.4-mile methane natural gas pipeline through Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay, from Old Bridge to Rockaway, New York; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the proposed project is to transport 400 million cubic feet of methane natural gas per day, extracted through the environmentally destructive process of hydraulic fracturing, from the Marcellus Shale to New York markedly contributing to climate change; and,

**WHEREAS**, the project will in no way serve the interests of the State of New Jersey, or its residents, and will only supply methane natural gas to Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island New York; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Williams/NESE pipeline will have severe negative impacts to the Raritan and Lower New York Bays such as disturbing roughly, 14,165 acres of the seabed of the Raritan Bay, discharging 690,000 gallons of drilling fluid and chemicals into the bay, re-suspending over 1,090,000 tons of toxic muck contaminated by PCBs, dioxin, lead, mercury, and arsenic, and destroying over 1,000 acres of benthic habitat that houses marine fish, shellfish, and larva; and,

**WHEREAS**, the project poses serious concerns related to environmental harm to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as negative impacts to the safety, health and wellbeing of Bayshore coastal communities, resulting in well documented public opposition; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Williams/NESE pipeline will endanger marine life and fisheries through decrease water quality from re-suspended toxins, sieving of over 3.5 Million gallons of seawater destroying any living thing in caught in the process, loud sounds and powerful vibrations that accompany pipeline development which will impact migration patterns, communication systems and other important biological processes; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Williams/NESE pipeline will have significant upstream environmental impacts that will directly harm the Raritan bay such as negatively

affecting 41 acres of wetlands, including approximately 20 acres of forested wetland; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Williams/NESE pipeline will adversely impact industries important to the New Jersey Bayshore communities, disturb commercial and recreational fishing and shell fishing activities, and potentially damage the tourism industry; and,

**WHEREAS**, despite being directly affected from the proposed Williams/NESE pipeline, there has been no public hearing within the Bayshore; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Williams/NESE pipeline will increase dependency on fossil fuels, reverses the state's renewable energy agenda, and contributes to climate change through increased emissions of methane and carbon dioxide; and,

**WHEREAS**, the company Williams and associate Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company (Transco) demonstrate a history of mismanaged facilities that resulted in explosions and fires, and do not show results of the pipeline test to governing bodies in any municipalities through which the existing pipeline runs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that on this date, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, the Highlands Borough Mayor & Council hereby opposes the construction and installation of a 23.4 mile

methane natural gas pipeline through Raritan Bay from Old Bridge to Rockaway, New York. Construction of the pipeline will negatively impact the health of the Bayshore, coastal ecosystems, marine life, benthic habitats, and coastal communities.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Borough of Highlands urges the company Williams to eliminate any further consideration for a pipeline.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Borough of Highlands urges the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to deny any permit application for the project and any other pipeline, and urges its representatives of the New Jersey Legislature, United States Congress and United States Senate as well as the Governor of New Jersey to oppose this pipeline application.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Borough of Highlands hereby calls on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to extend the public comment period 45 days and within the extension conduct a public hearing on the Williams NESE pipeline in the Bayshore region.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that good governance depends on transparency and due process and thus, the Bayshore must have an opportunity to be heard.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that this resolution be certified and forwarded to the New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy; Matthew Resnick of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Land Use Regulation; Senator Declan O'Scanlon, Assemblywoman Amy H. Handlin, and Assemblywoman Serena DiMaso.

**Motion** to Approve Resolution 19-115:

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BRASWELL					X	
BROULLON	X		X			
MAZZOLA			X			
RYAN		X	X			
O'NEIL			X			

I, Bonnie Brookes, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Highlands, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, hereby certify this to be a true copy of the action of the Governing Body, at its Council Meeting, held April 3, 2019. WITNESS my hand this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2019.

  
 Bonnie Brookes, RMC  
 Municipal Clerk