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October 22, 2015

Via New Jersey Lawyers Service

Ms. Irene Kim Asbury  
Secretary, Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Ave. 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

**RE: In the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas Company for Approval and Authorization to Construct and Operate the Southern Reliability Link pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.4; and**

**In the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey Natural Gas Company for a Determination Concerning the Southern Reliability Link Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-19 and N.J.S.A. 48:9-25.4**

**Docket Nos.: GE15040403 & GO15040403**


Dear Ms. Asbury:

As you are aware, this office represents the Township of North Hanover regarding the above referenced matter. In that regard, we previously filed a motion to intervene in the above referenced matters on behalf of North Hanover under docket numbers GE15040402/ GO15040403 & GE15040403. Pursuant to the schedule in the October 16, 2015 email from Babette Tenzer, DAG, please find enclosed a copy of the Testimony of James Durr, Mayor, Township of North Hanover. Same was served electronically today.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely yours,

**ROSELLI GRIEGEL LOZIER & LAZZARO, PC**

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark M. Roselli, Esq.

MMR: maa

Cc: Service List

(via email only)

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF :  
NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR : TESTIMONY  
FOR A DETERMINATION CONCERNING THE : OF JAMES DURR, MAYOR  
CONCERNING THE SOUTHERN RELIEABILITY : TOWNSHIP OF  
LINK PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:55D-19 : NORTH HANOVER  
AND N.J.S.A. 48:9-25.4 :  
: Docket Nos. GE15040403/  
: GO15040403

1. I am the Mayor of the Township of North Hanover, Burlington County and have been a member of the Township Committee since 2005.
2. The facts set forth herein are true and correct based upon personal knowledge and/or to the best of my information and belief.
3. I am generally familiar with the facts and circumstances surrounding the above-captioned application submitted by New Jersey Natural Gas ("NJNG") and have reviewed the application and exhibits filed by New Jersey Natural Gas with the Board of Public Utilities.
4. According to the application and exhibits, the proposed pipeline will be installed within the right of way of Burlington County Routes 528 and 664, both of which traverse North Hanover Township.
5. Specifically, the route for the pipeline in North Hanover as proposed by NJNG will follow Chesterfield-Arneytown Road (CR 528) to Chesterfield-Arneytown Road (664) and then continue into Upper Freehold along Province Line Road (also known as Ellisdale-Arneytown Road). A portion of Province Line Road is situated in North Hanover Township.
6. This proposed route will cause the pipeline, and necessarily the related construction, to pass by two significant aspects of North Hanover Township that apparently were not identified in NJNG's filing.

7. First, Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery, New Jersey's first state operated veterans cemetery, is located in North Hanover Township and is bordered by Chesterfield-Arneytown Road (CR 664) and Province Line Road.

8. The following was taken directly from the State of New Jersey, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs website:

On May 30, 1986, Governor Thomas H. Kean dedicated New Jersey's first state-operated veterans' cemetery as "a lasting memorial to those men and women who put their lives on the line to defend our country's honor and freedom." On January 3, 1989, the cemetery was named for the principal guiding force behind its development U.S. Army Brigadier General William C. Doyle.

The facility was funded jointly by the state and federal governments and is managed by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It is open to eligible New Jersey Veterans; residents who are members of the Armed Forces or reserve units on active duty at the time of death; certain dependents and certain merchant marines and civilians who have been awarded veteran's status. Rules and eligibility requirements were established within the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Washington, D.C.

The cemetery is located in Arneytown, North Hanover Township, Burlington County on Province line Road, which intersects Route 664 to the north of the cemetery and Routes 537 and 528 to the south. [...] The cemetery is a contemporary memorial type with all grave markers flush with ground level. **It covers 225 acres and was designed to accommodate 154,000 veterans and their family members.**

To provide privacy and protection from the elements for the bereaved, a chapel is provided for committal ceremonies. The United States and New Jersey State flags are flown in the front court of the chapel in tribute to all veterans buried in the cemetery.

Professional, compassionate service to the bereaved is the concern of the experienced staff who are ready to provide assistance and comfort to the family in their time of need.

**There is no finer tribute or more appropriate final resting-place for New Jersey's valiant heroes than in a cemetery dedicated to them.**

**As a state shrine, Doyle Cemetery honors the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. Approximately 15 burials occur each business day and the cemetery is visited by thousands of visitors each year. (Emphasis added.)**

9. Consequently, NJNG's proposed route will directly impact two major roads that service these hallowed grounds. Notwithstanding this significant memorial to the brave heroes who served the United States of America, NJNG failed to reference or consider the impact that the pipeline and its related construction will have on the cemetery, the burials that occur each business day (15 each business day/75 per week), not the families and visitors who go to the cemetery.
10. NJNG's proposed pipeline route will necessarily have a detrimental impact on this significant part of North Hanover Township.
11. Additionally, North Hanover Township is also home the "Arneytown Historic District," a small hamlet comprised of three buildings dating back to the 1700's. It is located at the intersection of Chesterfield-Arneytown Road (CR 664), Arneytown-Hornerstown Road and Province Line Road. It is also located across from Doyle Cemetery.
12. In 2009, I purchased one of the structures that encompasses Arneytown, that being 13 Chesterfield-Arneytown Road, or better known as the "Lawrie House" or "Arneytown Tavern." Since that time, I have worked to restore the Arneytown Tavern for use as a personal residence.
13. Arneytown's history began in the 1690s when it was settled by families participating in the Quaker migration to the Delaware Valley in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, including Joseph Arney, for whom the town is named.
14. The Arneytown Tavern dates to 1731, according to the Historic American Buildings (HABS) survey from 1936. The tavern was the first stop for stage coaches on their way from the "Falls of the Delaware (Trenton) to the Jersey seashore" according to the HABS documents.

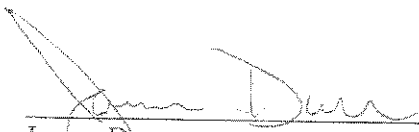
15. On the opposite side of the road, southeast of the tavern is Myrtlebank. The western section of this house was believed to be built before 1731 by John Emley. Approximately, one-half mile north of the crossroads is the Thomas Woodward House. The older section of this house is constructed of brick that contains a datestone reading "WT & I, 1733."
16. In 2008, Preservation New Jersey, which is a non-profit Trenton-based historic preservation organization, listed Arneytown among what it considered its "10 endangered historic sites" in an effort to draw public and government attention to the danger of demolition or alteration.
17. According to the exhibits submitted with NJNG's petition, it appears that the pipeline will be installed within 20 feet of two of the three historical structures and there are historic buttonwood trees located in front of 13 Chesterfield-Arneytown Road that are approximately the same age of the house. There is a strong probability that the construction related to the installation of the pipeline would necessarily destroy those trees.
17. Despite this historical jewel being placed in the crosshairs of its proposed pipeline route, NJNG has failed to account for the impact that the pipeline and necessarily its related construction will have on these historical structures, especially Arneytown Tavern.
18. North Hanover Township is also in the process of starting a significant road improvement project throughout the Township for purposes for re-surfacing many Township roads.
19. Pipeline construction along CR 528 and CR 664 would necessarily require road detours that would have a detrimental impact on the very roads that the Township will be re-surfacing. This would lead to increase costs to the Township or delays in completion of this much needed municipal project.

20. Finally, there are alternate routes available that would not require NJNG to utilize CR 528 or CR 664 or Province Line Road such as Route 68 and Jersey Central Power and Light Company's existing right of ways and/or Route 68 and the Joint Base Complex, which would allow the pipeline to be constructed without having any negative impact on the Township or its residents. However, it does not appear that NJNG has adequately considered these alternate routes.

I hereby certify that the foregoing testimony made by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and if any statement of fact contained herein is willfully false, that I may be subject to punishment.

Date:

10-15-2015

  
James Durr