



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST**

NOV - 6 2015

Colonel Frederick D. Thaden
Commander
2901 Falcon Lane, Suite 100
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst NJ 08641-5002

The Honorable Ronald S. Dancer
New Jersey Assembly
405 Rt. 539
Cream Ridge NJ 08514

Dear Assemblyman Dancer

On October 29, 2015, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) representatives met with you, a representative from Congressman Chris Smith's Office, executives from the New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) Company, and other local government officials to discuss potential routes for a natural gas transmission pipeline through JB MDL to be constructed by NJNG.

The route currently proposed by NJNG, and before the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for approval, crosses portions of JB MDL from Ocean County Route 539 through the southern edge of the former Lakehurst Naval Air Station. This route was developed in close coordination with Air Force engineering, environmental and legal experts. The current proposal is the best on-base route available because it presents minimal impacts to our mission, the people working and residing on JB MDL, and to the environment. It confines most of pipeline to already developed land areas. Careful planning resulted in placement of the proposed pipeline under existing hard-surfaced roadways. In addition, it will deliver gas to an underserved area of the base and provides energy redundancy.

The alternatives considered centered on an entrance point for the pipeline in proximity to the JB MDL Route 68 gate near Wrightstown. Bringing the pipeline from this area, across the installation to the Lakehurst side presents numerous impacts to operational requirements, to JB MDL residents and personnel, and to the environment. Moreover, a route from the east side to the west side of the installation would have to transverse the range complex. This is an area that has the potential for encountering unexploded ordnance (UXOs). Subsurface work in this area would require UXO investigation and possible clearance, which is time consuming and costly.

Gas supply to the eastern portion of JB MDL was identified as a critical system deficiency in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. This project provides a primary benefit of natural gas supply redundancy gained by looping the delivery pipeline, in addition to potentially converting facilities from liquid energy sources to gas. The current proposed route will provide direct service to the installation whereas, under the current state, JB MDL is near the terminus of

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the existing pipeline. The majority of the gas consumed by the installation will flow via the new pipeline, if completed.

My primary point of contact for this matter is the Deputy Base Civil Engineer, Mr. Christopher Archer. If there are any questions he may be reached at (609) 754-2768 or via email to christopher.archer@us.af.mil

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Thaden', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

FREDERICK D. THADEN, Col, USAF
Commander

cc:

Jeff Sagnip, Dist. Dir., U.S. Rep. Chris Smith
Jo Schloeder, Dir. Public Policy, U.S. Rep. Chris Smith
Kathleen T. Ellis, CEO, NJNG
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Joseph R. Malone, III, Mayor of Bordentown
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