

Update #1-June 2015, Update #2-July 2015, Update #3-August 2015

December 2015

UPDATE #4

Regarding New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) Southern Reliability Link Project, I have opposed the NJNG proposed route through the communities of Chesterfield, North Hanover, Upper Freehold and Plumsted Township from the time the route was announced by NJNG. I personally attended and testified in opposition to NJNG's proposed route at all Board of Public Utilities (BPU) public hearings that were held June 11 in North Hanover, July 28 in Manchester, and August 26 at Burlington County College.

Additionally, I met with the Governor's office on July 13 and on August 24 I met with Colonel Thaden at Joint Base-McGuire-Dix headquarters with representatives from Congressman Chris Smith's and Congressman Tom MacArthur's congressional offices to inform them of my opposition to the NJNG proposed route.

I requested Base Commander Colonel Thaden to conduct a feasibility study to determine if the NJNG line could enter the Joint Base via State Highway 68. However, Colonel Thaden advised me on November 6 that there were serious numerous impacts to operational requirements that could negatively impact the mission of the Joint Base and, therefore, is no longer under consideration.

As your State Legislator Representative, I have introduced the following legislation:

A4746 Requires BPU to hold public hearings on certain proposed intrastate natural gas pipelines; requires pipeline operator to provide written notice to property owners located within blast area of certain proposed intrastate natural gas pipelines. (ATU)

A4745 Deems dispute between local government and pipeline operator concerning danger posed by certain natural gas pipelines as contested case. (ATU)

A4744 Permits construction of natural gas transmission lines on areas of preserved farmland already subject to existing utility easements under certain circumstances. (AAN)

A4455 Requires certain gas companies to use existing right-of-way (JCP&L) when constructing new transmission lines where practicable and to seek consent of municipalities prior to initiating certain projects.
Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee (ATU)

A4501 Requires BPU to allow public comment at public meetings; establishes requirements for public meetings concerning installation of natural gas conductors and related facilities. (ATU)

A4503 Prohibits the placement of certain intrastate natural gas pipelines within 100 feet of buildings. (ATU)

A4902 Requires a pipeline operator to increase the current 100 foot written notice to property owners to include all property owners located within the defined "blast area." (ATU)

To access these bills go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/> and enter bill number.

You could assist my efforts to have the aforementioned legislation become law by contacting and requesting the Assembly Utilities Committee Chairman Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo at (609) 631-7501, asmdeangelo@njleg.org to post the bills for a vote.

Lastly, I am supporting the efforts of the Mayors and Township Committee Members in Chesterfield and North Hanover Townships in their efforts to oppose the NJNG preferred route.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,
Assemblyman Ron Dancer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 9, 2015

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Dancer Introduces Pipeline Legislation to Bolster Public Awareness and Public Safety

TRENTON, N.J. – Assemblyman Ron Dancer, continuing efforts to protect the public from dangerous high-pressure gas pipelines, has introduced a pair of bills safeguarding neighborhoods from risky procedures.

One bill (A-4746) prevents pipeline operators from forging ahead with hazardous projects in relative secrecy. Requiring the Board of Public Utilities to hold at least one public hearing in each municipality affected by the pipeline project increases public awareness about the route, the construction schedule, and potential danger. Pipeline operators must provide written notice, 30 days in advance of any public hearing, to all property owners within the designated “blast area” – the area that may be affected by a pipeline explosion.

“Right now, the people impacted most by a pipeline coming through their neighborhood have the least information,” said Dancer, R – Ocean, Burlington, Middlesex and Monmouth. “Residents deserve to be heard. Too often, decisions on pipelines are made before local residents even know what’s happening. Knowledge is power, and this bill gives families the opportunity to learn about threats to their homes and to express their concerns.”

Dancer’s second bill (A-4745) empowers municipalities, counties and the Division of Rate Counsel to intervene when an operator petitions to install a pipeline.

“This gives local governments a voice and makes them part of the process,” said Dancer. “Without this legislation, municipalities and counties can only sit on the sidelines and watch. We want to put them at the table where they can best represent their neighborhoods and look out for the well-being of their residents.”