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Proposed Northeast Energy Direct Gas Pipeline May be Reconfigured; Reports of its Demise May be Premature NEES Says in Court Filing

Reports of the demise of the proposed, controversial Kinder-Morgan gas pipeline that would cut across environmentally protected woodlands in Massachusetts may be premature, according to Northeast Energy Solutions (NEES).

“There is a solid chance that Kinder-Morgan will reconfigure the proposed pipeline,” according to Vincent DeVito, the legal counsel for NEES.

Kinder-Morgan has only stated that “suspended further work and expenditure’s for the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline project,” DeVito pointed out in a filing yesterday (May 10) with the Supreme Judicial Court.

“Neither Kinder-Morgan, the DPU, the Berkshire Gas Company, nor the Columbia Gas Company has officially confirmed that the (project) has been canceled, terminated, rescinded,” according to NEES.

DeVito said that in a recent filing with the DPU, the Berkshire Gas Company stated that they are engaged with the Tennessee Gas Company, a subsidiary of Kinder- Morgan, to explore “a possible amendment of their arrangement in order to determine whether some other agreement may achieve their mutual objectives.”

He said he believes that there is “a solid chance” that “the parties may reach an alternative or amended agreement as a result of their ongoing negotiations which might allow them to proceed with some variation of the NED Project.”

Unless the DPU “reverses its decision approving the Precedent Agreements, (they remain) in force and Tennessee, the Bay State Gas Company and the Berkshire Gas Company may proceed with their respective efforts to completed the NED Project.” NEES stated in the filing.

NEES (www.NEEnergySolutions.org) was established to provide sound analysis, public education, and effective advocacy related to proposed energy transport projects in the Northeast.

The organization’s founding members represent more than 101,000 individuals in the Commonwealth and collectively own or hold conservation restriction on over 50,000 acres of land in Massachusetts.