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### **Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company Providing ‘Inconsistent’ Information; Viability of Proposed Northeast Energy Direct Project Questioned**

BOSTON (March 16) – Northeast Energy Solutions (NEES) has questioned the financial viability of the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) gas pipeline project in a three-page letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) released today.

The nonprofit educational and advocacy corporation charges the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. (TGP) with providing “inconsistent information” that is masking the true facts about the proposed project’s progress.

The pipeline company has provided inconsistent data regarding the amount of gas shipments it will deliver based on agreements with shippers, and has implied that new contracts were signed when that is apparently not the case, according to NEES.

Vincent DeVito, legal counsel to NEES, wrote in the letter to FERC that the pipeline company has issued press releases and public statements “designed to trumpet progress...when, in fact, no real progress has occurred.”

He pointed out that the TGP issued a press release earlier this month announcing that it had reached agreement with key local natural gas distribution companies to transport gas through the proposed pipeline.

However, the implication that TGP was making progress in getting new contracts was misleading, he said, as the companies listed in the release were virtually identical to those cited in a press release issued by TGP last July.

“In view of the time lapse since TGP’s initial announcement of shippers, the probable unavailability of additional shippers, recent state regulatory rulings, and TGP’s continuous representation that it does not intend to export outside the United States, it is quite likely that TGP already knows that NED is not financially viable,” DeVito said in the letter.

He also pointed out in the letter that on three occasions during the past six months TGP provided different numbers regarding the amount of gas it would deliver based on agreements, with totals ranging from 416,264 Dth/d to 500,000 Dth/d.

The total quantity of gas for which agreements have been signed is about 40 percent less

than the minimum amount for which the market segment of the pipeline is being designed, according to NEES.

“Simply, TGP’s consistently inconsistent information frustrates the ability of stakeholders to conduct fact-based analyses so that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and other rule and policy makers, can be provided with truthful information,” he said.

The proposed 430-mile long gas pipeline project would cross through a number of Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire communities, and through protected, environmentally-sensitive lands and water resources.

NEES ([www.NEEnergysolutions.org](http://www.NEEnergysolutions.org)) was established to provide sound analysis, public education, and effective advocacy related to proposed energy transport projects in the Northeast.