



Northeast Energy Solutions
P.O. Box 495
Great Barrington, MA 01230
www.NEEnergySolutions.org

Economic rather than environmental concerns behind decision to reduce proposed Northeast Energy Direct gas pipeline project, advocacy group claims

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's decision to reduce the scope of its proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) gas pipeline project most likely has more to do with the company's difficulty in signing contracts with shippers than their concern about the environment, according to a spokesman for Northeast Energy Solutions (NEES).

Vincent DeVito, legal counsel to NEES, pointed out the organization which analyzes economic and environmental impacts of energy infrastructure projects, sent a three-page letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) last March that questioned the financial viability of the proposed NED gas pipeline project.

NEES (neenergysolutions.org) is a nonprofit coalition of nonprofit environmental organizations and other stakeholders that analyzes the economic and environmental impacts of energy transport projects in the Northeast.

In the letter to FERC, NEES charged that the company had 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.

"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.