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## Statewide and Local Organizations Join Together to Investigate Environmental, Economic Impacts of Proposed Energy Projects

Eight major organizations are joining forces to investigate the effect of energy infrastructure development in the Northeast as it relates to environmental impact and economic vitality.

The group – Northeast Energy Solutions (NEES) – will provide sound analysis, effective advocacy, and public education related to proposed energy transport projects.

The organization's founders include Berkshire Natural Resources Council, East Quabbin Land Trust, Franklin Land Trust, Green Berkshires, Nashua River Watershed Association, Richmond Land Trust, The Trustees of Reservations, and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, an association of more than 130 organizations.

NEES officials are currently analyzing several gas pipeline projects, including Kinder Morgan's proposed Northeast Energy Direct Project that calls for approximately 345 miles of pipeline, including 128 miles in Massachusetts, that would carry natural gas from Pennsylvania through New York and across the Berkshires to Dracut, MA.

"If approved for the current proposed route, the Northeast Energy Direct Project would impact thousands of acres of land in the northeast that have critical ecological, agricultural, scenic and historic value, including land and water resources that have been conserved by the state, towns, and nonprofit organizations," said Richard K. Hubbard, president of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

"NEES is taking a close look at both the current proposed route and the alternative routes that Kinder Morgan has submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)," said Elizabeth Ainsley Campbell, executive director of the Nashua River Watershed Association, an organization that serves 32 communities in north central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire.

NEES will provide local, state, and regional officials, market operators, federal regulators, and state and federal legislators with data concerning the need for and the potential economic and environmental impacts of any proposed Northeast Energy Direct Project. NEES will consider responding to other proposed projects, as needed, in the future.

NEES ([www.NEEnergySolutions.org](http://www.NEEnergySolutions.org)) will be able to call on a number of experts to assist in their work, including a former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Energy for Policy and International Affairs, and professionals who hold expertise in the energy industry and market, as well as those familiar with municipal concerns and public education.