Dear Rehoboth BOS, July 21, 2016

 Thank you for putting us on the agenda, we are pleased to get back to our conversation regarding the placement and effects of the Gas compressor station scheduled for North Rehoboth as well as the tax issue this project brings, and as always, we appreciate your time and attention.

First, I would like to share the website I mentioned during the meeting, it is geared toward assisting local officials with the gas pipeline process.

“Interstate Pipeline Forum for local officials”

<http://www.nmcog.org/Websites/nmcog/images/Gas_Pipeline/BCK-Pipeline-presentation.pdf>

To quickly recap what we discussed Monday night:

1. We asked you, and thank you Skip Vadnais and Gerry Schwall for agreeing to draft letters to: Governor Baker, Secretary Beaton, and Congressman Kennedy opposing the 3.2 Billion dollar tariff as a way to fund this project. This is time sensitive as this matter and **to be effective your letter should arrive during the next week.** Both bills are in special session now and the final version will be presented to the Governor soon. Also, a letter or phone call to Representative Howitt will also be very useful as The House and Senate have named Senator Ben Downing, Senator Marc Pacheco, Senator Bruce Tarr, Representative Brian Dempsey, Representative Tom Golden and Representative Brad Jones to a conference committee, which will negotiate the Senate and House bills. Calling Rep. Howitt and asking him to speak to Speaker Deleo and other conference committee members about supporting the Senate’s version of the bill by **banning the pipeline tax from being used against the ratepayers** by the Department of Public Utilities. We also requested that you post these letters on the town website as well as the responses to them for residents to see and be included in your conversation.
2. You agreed to **write to FERC requesting a Scoping hearing** here in Rehoboth and since residents were excluded in that process **you** **also will request to extending the comment period as well**. We will also request that you print the inquiry and response to these important letters too on the town website. We offered Becky Haughs correspondence to FERC as a sample letter to assist your composition.

The FERC contact and mailing address is:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, NE

Washington, DC 20426

1. You agreed to move forward in an effort to form a coalition of towns in an effort to publicize this project, obtain and disseminate answers for important questions from residents of Rehoboth, Seekonk and Attleboro, and uncover the benefits this project will bring to the residents of Rehoboth and the town at large.
2. To assist in notifying the 12,000 +/- residents in town of this project and their opportunity to comment or get more information we discussed the possibility of posting a larger wooden sign on town land that was neutral in nature. We were called upon to come up with suggestions, which we would like to present to you at your next town meeting Aug. 1st.
3. Our discussion of having a more prominent link to our website on the town website was left with the understandable caveat that your opinions do not reflect those of our group. We agreed on an invitation to other residents supporting this project to provide a website link to a page showing the energy benefits to educate us. We feel this is fair and in the best interest of the town to gather more balanced information. We do feel however, this is a town matter and the town website should offer other residents views not public relations from Spectra/Nat’l Grid and Eversource.
4. We asked the board to actively communicate with town residents about the project through quick weekly updates regarding any of these topics: appeals, permits, conservation issues and rulings, town strategies to protect wetlands, the DEP and any changes in project filings, public comment periods, status on the amendments regarding the pipeline tax and the distance of the compressor station to certain facilities, The resource reports, the Access Northeast formal application status, etc. We feel communication is important to help Quell concerns and give the residents more opportunities to get involved or have a voice.

Looking forward to the future, we feel it is important to have a public meeting dedicated to the gas compressor and pipeline expansion in an open discussion with Algonquin before the formal application is submitted. On Friday 7/22 the resource reports are due out which will provide us with more information regarding Algonquin’s plans on this project and more details on how it will affect Rehoboth. In November their Formal application will be filed. This small window is an important time for us to ask our questions and be heard.

It was always our intention to use our letter dated June 9th as a guideline for this meeting between three towns, Rehoboth, Seekonk, and Attleboro and to offer a forum for the advocates and critics, our elected leaders and Algonquin. As you agreed, we have offered many questions listed in that letter that are prudent and reasonable. It is our intention to have a sensible and thoughtful conversation where everyone’s views are represented and answers are available. We are not interested in listening to PR from Algonquin so we will also invite experts to keep them honest.

This is project represents a significant change in the landscape of Rehoboth. Some residents will see their homes affected, property values drop and their lives forever changed. It is not unreasonable for them to be upset. I want to make it very clear; we are not a hysterical group. This is new to all of us, there is a tremendous amount of information to sift through and we feel our concerns are valid.

In closing, we would like to request a place on your agenda for the next town meeting, August 1st. At that time we can discuss the resource reports as well as follow up from this discussion here. We understand the amount of information on this project is overwhelming we sincerely offer you our assistance in finding what you need to be informed. We would very much like to be allies in this matter because cooperation and respect is what makes a great town.

My best,

Alys Vincent

BC Cares/ Citizens Against the Rehoboth Compressor Station