



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: July 3, 2003
Comment Period Ends: August 15, 2003
File Number: 200103091
In Reply Refer To: Cori M. Rose
Or by e-mail: cori.m.rose@usace.army.mil

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ALGONQUIN GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY AND ISLANDER EAST PIPELINE COMPANY LLC, 454 Main Street, Route 1, Branford, CT have requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to complete an upgrade to certain existing Algonquin facilities; to construct a new interstate natural gas compressor station in Connecticut, and to construct and operate approximately 49.9 linear miles of new 24" natural gas pipeline commencing from an existing meter station in North Haven, Connecticut and terminating at planned power plants in Brookhaven and Calverton, New York. The pipeline, as proposed, will cross or indirectly impact 18 waterbodies, 55 wetlands and Long Island Sound. The onshore segment of the project will traverse approximately 27.3 linear miles of lands located in Connecticut and New York, and approximately 22.6 linear miles of submerged lands within Long Island Sound. Offshore installation methodologies will include a combination of horizontal directional drill, mechanical dredging and sub-sea plow. Approximately 22.9 acres of wetlands are proposed to be impacted in association with the temporary construction right of way, and approximately 8 acres of wetlands are proposed to be impacted as a result of permanent maintenance of the pipeline right of way. The predominant wetland type to be impacted in association with the proposed project is a mix of emergent and forested wetland cover types. The proposed activity was originally described in a May 1, 2002 Public Notice. The attached plans represent changes to the configuration of the project since issuance of the original Public Notice on May 1, 2002.

By this notice we are announcing a public hearing and requesting comments in writing, or orally at the hearing, on this application. The purpose of the hearing is to acquire information that will be considered in evaluating the permit application.

The public hearing will be held on August 5, 2003 at the Branford High School Auditorium in Branford, Connecticut. Registration for oral comment will begin at 6:00 pm. The hearing will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. The Branford High School is located at 185 East Main Street, Branford, CT and is accessible from I-95 east (Exit 54) and I-95 west (Exit 55).

Deaf and hearing impaired persons wishing to attend this Public Hearing, and requiring an interpreter, may make arrangements by contacting the Public Affairs Office at (978) 318-8237 at least five working days prior to the Public Hearing.

Subsequent to the hearing the transcript will be available for review on our web page and/or at our office, or may be purchased directly from the reporter. A copy of our final decision document, including the environmental assessment will be available upon request. Any person shall be able to submit oral or written statements concerning the subject matter of the hearing, to call witnesses who may present oral or written statements, and to present recommendations as to an appropriate decision. Any person

may present written statements for the hearing record prior to the time the hearing record is closed to public submissions, and may present proposed findings and recommendations.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity in the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which may reasonably accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. All comments received in response to this notice or as part of the hearing record will be considered, in addition to those comments received on the original Public Notice. Consequently, **if you have already submitted comments, there is no need to resubmit them as part of this proceeding.**

WRITTEN STATEMENTS MAY BE MAILED TO: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, ATTN: Ms. Cori Rose, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751. Comments must be received by August 15, 2003. If you have any questions, please contact Cori M. Rose at (978) 318-8306 or use our toll free number (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367 if calling within Massachusetts.

Robert J. DeSista
Chief, Permits & Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division