



5 January 2007

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Docket No. PF06-13-000, Downeast LNG Project

Dear Secretary Salas:

The following comments are in response to the Downeast LNG, Inc. Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Downeast LNG Project. Our comments are related to environmental issues concerning the potential expansion of the Maritimes & Northeast (M&NE) Pipeline System.

The Cove Brook Watershed Council has several concerns with the intent to expand or modify the M&NE pipeline within the Cove Brook Watershed and the adjacent Lower Penobscot River system. Many of our concerns are reflected in the comments provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on 4 May 2006 (FERC Accession # 20060512-0082, received 05/11/2006). The new information and acknowledgement by FERC that the M&NE pipeline will require expansion to accommodate this project necessitates further consideration of the project's impacts to Endangered Species and their ecosystems (including habitats existent in lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, wetlands, vernal pools, and riparian zones) in and around the pipeline. However, it is unclear from the Resource Reports provided by Downeast LNG, Inc. the specific stream, river, and other wetland crossings that will be impacted by the expansion. Such clarification is necessary to provide alternative solutions.

It should be noted that any modifications in the Cove Brook watershed need to be carefully considered because the watershed designated as habitat for the Distinct Population Segment of anadromous Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) in the Gulf of Maine, listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service as an endangered species on November 17, 2000 (65 FR 69459). To our knowledge, the M&NE pipeline is within this watershed and there are several wetland crossings that would be impacted by modifications to the pipeline. Therefore, any impacts in this area will need to be considered under a Section 7 (of the ESA) in consultation with the federal action agencies.

Furthermore, any modifications to the pipeline where it crosses the Penobscot River from Winterport to Bangor, Maine, will likely require a Section 7 (of the ESA) consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service, due to the newly documented presence of the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*; listed under the ESA in 1967) in this area of the Penobscot River.

More specific comments about environmental impacts of the M&NE expansion can be provided when more detail concerning the modifications are revealed by Downeast LNG, Inc.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the Notice of Intent and hope to be kept apprised of any further environmental issues associated with this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gayle B. Zydlewski". The ink is dark and the signature is written over a light, circular stamp or watermark.

Gayle B. Zydlewski
President

Submission Contents

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