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March 31, 2016

Dear Schodack Residents:

We are writing as a Town Board to inform residents about a proposed natural gas pipeline, which would run through the Town of Schodack. Although there has been a lot of publicity about the pipeline, we are finding that many residents don't know about it. We also want to bring you up to date about this project, and what the town may expect. Tennessee Gas Pipeline, a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan, has applied for a Certificate of Need and Convenience for the Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline (NED). This proposed pipeline would transport natural gas from Wright, New York to Dracut, Massachusetts. Although the exact route of the pipeline has not been determined, it is probable that the line will run through Schodack, and also possible that the project might include the construction of a compressor station in Schodack. These are large industrial facilities which are necessary to "push" the gas along towards its destination.

The application for this proposed pipeline is pending before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This is a federal agency, created and governed under federal law, in which state and local input is somewhat limited. Almost from the beginning of the project, we heard from numerous Schodack citizens about the potential dangers threatened by the pipeline, and the undesirable economic and environmental impacts on our Town if this project moves forward. The Town Board has passed a number of resolutions opposing the project and forwarded them to our elected state and federal representatives. In addition, the Town Board has joined the Berkshire Regional Plan Association. This organization, based in western Massachusetts, is providing legal and technical assistance to members of the pipeline working group, which includes Schodack. The towns of Nassau and Stephentown, and Rensselaer County, have also joined this group, as have several municipalities in western Massachusetts. The Association has hired the firm of BCK, a Boston-area law firm, which specializes in proceedings before FERC. This experienced firm can counsel us as to what steps we can take collectively in the regulatory proceeding before FERC, what steps we can take as a town in this matter, and what steps concerned individuals can take in this process.

In connection with the Berkshire Regional Plan Association, the Town has submitted to FERC, during the scoping process, concerns relating to what we perceive to be economic and environmental harm that will come from the project. The town has applied for and obtained intervenor status before FERC, as well as joining the Berkshire Regional Plan Association as a participating member of their intervenor efforts.

At the present time, FERC has requested additional information from Kinder Morgan relating to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). When the draft environmental impact statement comes out, we will respond appropriately to concerns either raised in that report, or omitted from that report.

Town residents can get information on the status of the FERC process directly from the FERC website, which is [FERC.gov](http://FERC.gov). The Town Board will continue to keep residents informed of the status of this matter, as events occur. The Town has contracted for the construction of a new website which should be up and running by the end of April, and we will post information as it becomes available.

In order to more fully inform Schodack residents of the pipeline project, and the legal status and procedures involved under the FERC process, we have scheduled a public meeting for **April 13, 2016** at **7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Maple Hill High School, at 1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton, New York, and will be open to the public. Speaking at the meeting will be Rebecca Zachus, Esq., an attorney with BCK, the law firm that is representing the consortium with which the Town is working on this issue. She will discuss the legal issues relating to the permitting process, and what local governments can do in relation to the proposed pipeline. In addition, Marco Boscardin, Ph.D, P.E., a consulting engineer, will join us to discuss some of the technical aspects of the pipeline process. There will be a question and answer period following the presentations.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter, and look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Dennis Dowds, Town Supervisor  
James Bult, Town Board Member  
Michael Kenney, Town Board Member  
Scott Swartz, Town Board Member  
Tracy Rex, Town Board Member