

Att: Robert J Shea, Presiding Officer

Energy Facilities Siting Board

Department of Public Utilities

7/14/16

Dear Mr. Shea,

I would like to begin by thanking you for listening to my concerns vis-à-vis Spectra Energy's Access Northeast pipeline proposal and for your consideration in hearing my request. As per our conversation, I am a long time resident and property owner in Rehoboth Massachusetts, frustrated by both the timing and locations of the Energy Facilities Siting Board hearings that took place in May 2016. As I mentioned to you in our conversation, Rehoboth residents are extremely challenged in trying to get the word out regarding the compressor station that is planned for our town. There are few news outlets available that are universally read, there is no local TV coverage, and although Spectra is required to announce their pipeline plans to abutters, there were many abutters that were not notified.

Since January 2016 our Board of Selectmen has exercised their executive powers to accomplish the bare minimum. This has consisted of a public notice buried in the Rehoboth town website announcing that the Board was contacted by Spectra, an equally obscure website post for an informational meeting "open to the public" held (5/2/16) with a representative from Spectra, and most recently the drafting of the Board's (unpublicized) letter to Congressman Kennedy, whose response was posted more prominently on their website. Since informing their constituents about the compressor station is not considered by town leadership to be their responsibility, the Spectra meeting of 5/2/16 was attended by only a single Rehoboth resident. This is a predictable result from a system of government where the responsibility to obtain information is seen to rest entirely with the uninformed.

With limited tools and exhaustive effort on the part of a few Rehoboth residents, the news is just starting to spread in our town about the proposed compressor station. But as of today's date, the majority of our residents are still uninformed, and the towns of Seekonk and Attleboro that abut the proposed compressor station property are even more oblivious. All of these towns have done next to nothing about informing their residents. Your hearings are an important forum and provide the public an opportunity for exchanging information and expressing concerns. Beyond this they are all the more valuable because the staging of such an event can in itself help draw public attention. Your hearings in May came and went while our communities were fully asleep to this project. Once we finally wake up there will be no forum for our citizens to voice their concerns.

As Spectra's Access Northeast project is still in the pre-filing phase, I believe it would not be too late to grant our town an Energy Facilities Siting Board hearing. I appeal to your board to grant Rehoboth and its surrounding towns the benefit of a hearing as the towns of Grafton, Weymouth, Walpole and Acushnet have had. The hosting of a compressor station is very specific to our community and comes with it very specific impacts. Without this valuable public meeting, our concerns about the compressor station will have been completely disregarded. I earnestly request that you consider our need for a public hearing here in Rehoboth.

Sincerely, Tracy Manzella / 214 Chestnut St, Rehoboth, MA