Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Room 1 A
Washington, DC 20426

re: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C., Docket No. PF14-22-000

Dear Secretary Bose:

Fix FERC First
Chapter 7: Conclusion

It has become increasingly obvious to many observers that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is badly broken and desperately in need of repair or reformulation. This document is the final one in a series of several chapters of the **Fix FERC First** story, with previous chapters describing FERC shortcomings and the harm done directly to the public and to the public interest as a result of those shortcomings. This final chapter is the **Conclusion** of the series.

In the Introduction to this series, I explained that the **Fix FERC First** title was chosen purposely – because it seems impossible to expect that FERC would be able to provide a rational, considered deliberation of the multiple natural gas pipelines proposed for New England while the rules and procedures that govern its deliberations remain as fundamentally flawed as they are at this time. In the ensuing chapters, I detailed what I saw as the main problems with FERC and the negative effects of those problems.

I wrote the **Fix FERC First** series because I wanted not just to publicize, but also to personalize the problems that I see with FERC. One year ago I had only a very vague idea of what FERC was and that there seemed to be some issues with it – but I honestly had never paid much attention to FERC. And then someone at Kinder Morgan drew a line on a map that represented the route for a proposed natural gas pipeline through New England. That line bisected my property, passing within 40 feet of my house. That served as a very effective wakeup call – and so I started to educate myself about pipelines, about the energy companies that build them and about FERC, the federal agency that regulates and licenses them. In the past year I have learned much about the tactics used by pipeline companies such as Kinder Morgan – and also about the ineffectual "regulation" that FERC provides of those companies and their pipeline proposals.

As I have previously stated, I witnessed firsthand the deception and the misdirection that Kinder Morgan has used in parceling out information to the towns and individuals impacted by the proposed pipeline. But as the FERC pre-filing process progressed, I also came to see that FERC was acting more as a silent partner of Kinder Morgan rather than as an industry regulator. I was disheartened over the ensuing months as Kinder Morgan (theoretically under FERC's direction) openly and repeatedly misled the public by providing "information" that unerringly underestimated the negative impacts of the pipeline.

And the more that I learned about FERC, the more that I became concerned that New England was most likely going to get yet another rubberstamped pipeline, compliments of FERC. A pipeline that FERC thought was "needed" because that's what the pipeline company and the market were whispering in FERC's ear. A pipeline that would be built using the authority of federal eminent domain to override the property rights of many hundreds of New Englanders. A pipeline whose capacity virtually guaranteed that much of the gas that it carried was destined to be exported. A pipeline that might well be approved without FERC ever considering it in the context of the other New England pipelines being proposed. A pipeline whose long term negative upstream and downstream environmental impacts would not be properly considered – not because those impacts didn't exist but because FERC simply couldn't be bothered to study them and help to develop the metrics with which to measure them. And a pipeline that FERC seemed bound and determined to facilitate rather than to regulate.

The reality is that as things stand, FERC will the arbiter for much of New England's energy future for decades to come. If FERC approves the trove of natural gas pipelines currently being proposed, New England will become a way point on a gas superhighway leading from the Marcellus Shale fracking fields to a series of LNG liquefaction and export terminals being planned for eastern Canada. And these pipelines will then dominate our energy choices and priorities for decades to come – slowing our move to a renewable energy future and destroying any chance of meeting our commitments to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

So the question comes down to this: Can FERC be rehabilitated? Given FERC's history of allowing the pipeline companies to abuse the public by disseminating misinformation about their proposed projects; given FERC's faulty definition of the "need" for more pipelines; given FERC's unwillingness to take any leadership on weighing the upstream and downstream impacts of the pipelines they so freely approve; and above all, given FERC's history of worshipping exclusively at the altar of fossil fuels – can FERC be saved? Can it become a true energy regulatory agency – an agency that insists that energy companies stop abusing the public, that is forward looking, that adapts as our needs and energy sources change?

FERC Commissioner Norman Bay will soon assume the chairmanship of FERC. Let's hope that he will listen to the rising tide of voices insisting that FERC must change its ways. But we all understand that FERC won't accomplish this without a strong, ongoing push from the public. FERC is beginning to see that they indeed have a "situation" here. We need to continue to help them to understand just how serious that situation is and that it is not going to go away on its own – FERC needs to fix itself. Until they do, FERC's future will be filled with increasingly negative media coverage, more frequent and more raucous disruption of their day-to-day business by enraged citizens, and building pressure from the people and the people's elected representatives for this broken agency to be mended.

Our job is to keep applying that pressure every day, in every way possible. FERC must be fixed.

Nick Miller Groton, MA

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These earlier chapters of **Fix FERC First** are downloadable from the FERC eLibrary:

- **Chapter 1: An Introduction**
- **Chapter 2: FERC's Faulty Definition Of Need**
- **Chapter 3: FERC Allows The Public To Be Misled**
- **Chapter 4: FERC Is Short-Sighted**
- **Chapter 5: The "R" Is For Regulatory Not Rubberstamp**
- **Chapter 6: What Others Are Saying About FERC**