WHAT IS PROPOSED?

- 27-mile, 16-inch diameter, high pressure (950 psi) natural gas pipeline along Route 101 from Stratham to Manchester.

- Liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Epping would include LNG storage tank (approx. 160' high, 200' wide, sized to store 2 billion cubic feet) and plant to liquify gas from pipeline, and regasify for distribution.

- Right-of-way for pipeline was designated an Energy Infrastructure Corridor in 2016 by legislation (NH Rev Stat § 162-R:2 (2016)).

WHAT KEY REGULATORY APPROVALS ARE REQUIRED?

- The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is now reviewing the project, largely from a financial perspective.

- The Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) will review siting issues (SEC filing planned end of 2018).

WHY IS THIS BEING PROPOSED?

- Liberty claims demand for gas is expanding beyond what existing infrastructure (the Concord Lateral) can support. However, they have been aggressively marketing gas for years to create this demand.

- Investor-owned utilities have a financial incentive to expand gas infrastructure because they receive a guaranteed rate of return on investment.

LIBERTY HAS HAD AN AGGRESSIVE EXPANSION PLAN FOR YEARS

- Liberty was the only NH gas utility signed on as customer for Kinder Morgan’s failed Northeast Energy Direct project (NED); Liberty proposed a new, four-town franchise in the NED-impacted Rindge area (and met with significant local opposition).

- Acquired Concord Steam (biomass plant) customer base to convert to gas.

- Bought out Keene air-propane system, acquired new franchise rights in Pelham & Windham.

- Temporary compressed natural gas facility okayed by Keene for a Liberty franchise.

- New distribution pipelines built in Pelham.

- Lebanon/Hanover franchise conditionally approved (final approval depends on whether Liberty signs up enough customers).

- Possible new franchises mentioned for Epping, Candia, Raymond.
LIBERTY UTILITIES GRANITE BRIDGE PROJECT - OVERVIEW & ISSUES (p.2)

LIBERTY DOES NOT DISCLOSE ALL OF THE COSTS AND RISKS OF THE PROJECT

- Much of the financial information about Granite Bridge is currently being kept confidential.
- Costs of such projects typically far exceed initial projections.
- Liberty’s ratepayers will be asked to fund the project (currently approximated at $350 million total cost).
- Liberty cannot guarantee that natural gas prices will remain low.
- The NH Consumer Advocate (who has access to confidential information) is calling for greater transparency about this project and has expressed concern that ratepayers and the public do not have access to information about the costs that will ultimately be used by Liberty to request rate increases. He flags a “very, very, very substantial” increase to the rate base proposed by Liberty that he cannot disclose due to a Protective Order filed by the company with the PUC.
- Environmental impacts would include Lamprey River crossings, construction near Massabesic Lake.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Become a member of PLAN-NE, which is intervening at the PUC on behalf of ratepayers and concerned residents. Intervenors can gain access to confidential information. PLAN-NE works with legal and technical experts with decades of experience in energy advocacy and analysis.
- Comment on the PUC docket (DG 17-198) to express your concerns.
- Raise your concerns with municipal officials and state legislators.
- Spread local awareness about the project in person, through social media and traditional media.

www.plan-ne.org

Working to prevent the overbuild of fossil fuel infrastructure and to champion clean, sustainable energy solutions.

We will continue to update our website with information about the Granite Bridge project.