



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD**

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING BY THE
MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD (“EFSB”)**

**NATURAL GAS PIPELINE UPGRADE PROJECTS IN HAMPDEN COUNTY
PROPOSED BY TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE COMPANY, L.L.C.**

**Wednesday March 27, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School Auditorium
95 Grassy Gutter Road
Longmeadow, MA 01106**

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (“Tennessee”) has proposed to construct the “261 Upgrade Projects,” consisting of the Line 261B Pipeline Looping Project (“Looping Project”) and the Compressor Station 261 Horsepower Replacement Project (“HP Replacement Project”), both in Agawam, Massachusetts. The 261 Upgrade Projects respond to the request for additional natural gas deliverability capability by Tennessee’s customers, Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts (“CMA”) and Holyoke Gas and Electric Department (“Holyoke”). The 261 Upgrade Projects are intended to ensure continued safe and reliable natural gas service to CMA’s Greater Springfield Service Territory (which provides natural gas to approximately 106,000 customers in 16 municipalities) and Holyoke’s approximately 10,000 customers. The Longmeadow Meter Station, a project that is separate from the 261 Upgrade Projects would provide a new delivery point for CMA on the east side of the Connecticut River in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. Construction of the 261 Upgrade Projects is anticipated in 2020; the Longmeadow Meter Station is scheduled for construction in 2019.

Tennessee filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the 261 Upgrade Projects with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) on October 19, 2018. The Energy Facilities Siting Board (“EFSB”) is a formal intervenor in the FERC proceeding, but does not have siting jurisdiction over the 261 Upgrade Projects. Tennessee filed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (“DEIR”) with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (“MEPA”) Office that was noticed in the Environmental Monitor on January 9, 2019 and is currently under review. The MEPA office will participate in this public hearing. The DEIR includes the 261 Upgrade Projects; the Secretary’s Certificate on the Expanded Environmental Notification Form requested additional information in the DEIR regarding the Longmeadow Meter

Station. Both MEPA and the EFSB seek to gather additional public comments to inform their respective reviews.

The Looping Project includes 2.1 miles of 12-inch-diameter loop to be installed on Tennessee's existing 261B-100 pipeline. The majority of the loop will be located within Tennessee's existing pipeline corridors and will replace an existing inactive 6-inch-diameter pipeline where feasible. Where the proposed loop deviates from Tennessee's existing pipeline corridors, the route is intended to minimize impacts to residences and/or existing utility structures.

The HP Replacement Project involves the modernization of equipment at Tennessee's existing Compressor Station 261 ("CS 261"). The 10-inch 261B-100 pipeline and the aforementioned proposed loop begin at CS 261. The HP Replacement Project involves removing two existing older units (a Solar Saturn installed in 1965 and a Solar Centaur installed in 1991) and installing a new Solar Taurus 70 unit. The new Solar Taurus 70 unit is intended to better meet peak flow operating conditions and result in more reliable service.

Tennessee maintains that the 261 Upgrade Projects are needed to meet the current demand for increased natural gas. The FERC certificate application refers to the Longmeadow Meter Station, a project that Tennessee maintains is separate from the 261 Upgrade Projects, that would provide a new delivery point for CMA on the east side of the Connecticut River in Longmeadow, Massachusetts (the nearest existing delivery points are in Agawam and East Longmeadow). Tennessee asserts that the Longmeadow Meter Station will enhance system reliability for existing CMA customers and support the ability of CMA to serve future customers. Tennessee maintains that the natural gas supplied to the Longmeadow Meter Station would come from Tennessee's existing mainline, would not be influenced by either the Looping Project or HP Replacement Project and has separate utility from the 261 Upgrade Projects. The proposed location for the Longmeadow Meter Station is 400 Shaker Road, Longmeadow, Massachusetts (on the premises of the Longmeadow Country Club).

The description of the new meter station is provided for informational purposes; Tennessee asserts that it does not trigger any EFSB review thresholds, does not require any state permits, and has independent utility from the Looping Project and HP Replacement Project. Tennessee intends to construct the Longmeadow Meter Station pursuant to its FERC blanket construction certificate and the FERC's regulations governing blanket certificate projects. The DEIR includes information regarding the Longmeadow Meter Station Project for public review and to respond to the MEPA Certificate on the Expanded Environmental Notification Form.

As referenced above, in addition to MEPA and other state environmental protection regulatory programs, the 261 Upgrade Projects are ultimately subject to the jurisdiction of the FERC, which requires a comprehensive review process under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"). FERC will prepare an Environmental Assessment ("EA") to satisfy the requirements of NEPA. The EA will be used by FERC to consider the environmental impacts that could result if it approves the 261 Upgrade Projects. FERC is required to review and recommend measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate such impacts. The Siting Board participates in FERC proceedings for natural gas pipelines to represent the interests of the Commonwealth and its residents.

The Siting Board will hold a public hearing, which will provide an opportunity for residents, public officials, and other interested persons to provide comments regarding their concerns relating to the 261 Upgrade Projects and the Longmeadow Meter Station. The Siting Board hearing is separate and distinct from any public hearing or action that may be conducted by FERC regarding this matter.

The Siting Board and MEPA also seek written comments concerning the proposed 261 Upgrade Projects and the Longmeadow Meter Station.

Comments for the Siting Board should be sent by email to both Stephen.August@mass.gov and dpu.efiling@mass.gov or by U.S. mail to: Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, Attention: Stephen August, Presiding Officer. The comments should be sent to the Siting Board by Wednesday **April 10, 2019**. The Siting Board will use the comments it receives, whether oral or written, in drafting a comment letter on the 261 Upgrade Projects to submit to FERC. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen August at the email or physical address above.

MEPA comments should be sent to Alex Strycky via email at alexander.strycky@mass.gov or by U.S. mail to: Alex Strycky, MEPA Office, 100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02114. The comments should be sent to the MEPA Office by Friday **March 29, 2019**. If you have any questions, please contact Alex Strycky at the email or physical address above.

Additional information about the 261 Upgrade Projects is available in the EFSB electronic filerom at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Filerom/dockets/bynumber/CP19-7-000> and the FERC website (<http://www.ferc.gov>). Click on the eLibrary link, click on “General Search” and enter the FERC docket number “CP19-7-000”. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov or call FERC at 1-202-502-8659 or 1-866-208-3676. Information regarding the 261 Upgrade Projects is also available in the DEIR, available in the EFSB electronic filerom, or by contacting Deborah McCartney of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. at 713-420-6723. Information about the Longmeadow Meter Station may be found in the FERC docket and DEIR, referenced above, although the Longmeadow Meter Station did not technically trigger jurisdiction in either process.