

SHOULD YOU HAVE TO PAY TO BUILD A NEW GAS PIPELINE?

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Massachusetts. It oversees and regulates public utility companies that distribute electric power, natural gas, and water to Massachusetts citizens. Utility companies submit petitions (also called dockets) to the DPU regarding rates and operational contracts. **The current dockets include a provision that ratepayers pay for the cost of new pipeline construction** (\$8 to \$9 billion) through a surcharge on our electric utility bill. This is an unprecedented financial model, one that **many claim is illegal**.

There are currently two new gas pipeline systems under consideration—**Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct** in the west, and **Spectra Energy Access Northeast** in the east. The pipeline company justifies these new systems with “peak demand” (at most, 30 days per year). In November 2015 the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office published findings from a thorough study and stated that other measures, such as energy efficiency, demand response through distributed grid, and renewables, would be more cost effective and far more environmentally responsible than new gas pipelines.

The DPU weighs citizen input through written comments and public hearings. **If you don’t want to pay to construct dangerous, unnecessary, and environmentally irresponsible new gas pipelines, now is your opportunity to voice your opinion.**

The hearings listed below are Final Public Hearings, so this will be your last chance to speak out.

TO PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENTS:

You can write multiple e-mails/letters, choosing and expanding a topic for each one. You can send the same e-mail/letter for all three dockets.

For each docket,

- a. Submit written comments to the Hearing Officer identified in the respective notice
- b. Copy dpu.efiling@state.ma.us on the Hearing Officer e-mail
- c. Put the docket identification as underlined in the subject line of the e-mail
- d. Mail a hard copy to:
Mark D. Marini, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

THE DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS IS THE DATE OF THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING

1. National Grid: DPU Docket 16-05 Access Northeast - **May 3, Stoughton High School**, 7 p.m.
Hearing Officer, David Gold, david.j.gold@state.ma.us
2. National Grid: DPU Docket 16-07 Northeast Energy Direct - May 11, Timony Grammar School, Methuen, 7 p.m.
Hearing Officer, Jeffrey Leupold, Jeffrey.Leupold@state.ma.us
3. Eversource: DPU Docket #15-181 Access Northeast - **May 23, Walpole High School**, 7 p.m.
Hearing Officer, Laura Koepnick, Laura.Koepnick@state.ma.us

ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARINGS:

At the hearings, you can read the comments you have already sent (3 minute limit) or say something else and hand in a hard copy. If you do not wish to speak, you may just submit written comments. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes, so it is best to make clear, impactful spoken statements, and leave longer, more detailed statements for written submission.

What kinds of points to make in comments:

We don't want to pay a surcharge on our electric bills for twenty years to pay for the construction of the \$3 billion Spectra Access Northeast and \$5 billion Kinder Morgan Northeast Direct pipelines because:

1. If Spectra and Kinder Morgan won't invest in these pipelines because they're considered financially risky, why should we foot the bill?
2. We don't need the pipelines. Attorney General Maura Healey's study says we can function with energy efficiency efforts, demand response through distributed grid, and renewables to 2030.
3. The pipelines would have such capacity that gas not needed in Massachusetts would likely be sent to Canada for export where two LNG export terminals have been approved.
4. LNG exports would likely raise gas pricing in New England to international levels.
5. These pipelines are dangerous and unhealthy.
6. We get the risks and Spectra and Kinder Morgan get the profits.
7. It is taxation without representation through an elected body, the DPU.
8. If the pipelines are built and gas continues to be used, Massachusetts can't meet the goals of the Global Warming Solutions Act (2008).
9. The pipelines are built to last at least 50 years, longer than we can afford to use them, in light of the climate crisis.
10. Gas pipelines contribute to climate change – we should be phasing out the use of fossil fuels for energy.
11. Fracked gas is as dirty an energy producer as oil and coal.
12. Approval of these negotiations would set a dangerous precedent for future energy financial models.

Of course, you can share your own personal experience.

Visit NoSharonGasPipeline.org, NoSpectraMa.org, NoFrackedGasInMass.org for more information.