Press Release

METHANE GAS PIPELINE PROPOSED FOR THE FOURTH TIME
Groups Launch Effort to Stop “Nasty NESE”

Long Branch, NJ - For the fourth time in three years, Williams-Transco is proposing to build a 23.4-mile methane gas pipeline, called the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE), through Raritan Bay, Lower New York Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean, from Old Bridge, New Jersey to Rockaway, New York. A notice announcing the open public comment period was posted today in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Bulletin.

“Nasty NESE is back for an unbelievable fourth time, and the environmental impacts of this unnecessary, climate-changing project will still be severe and devastating,” said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action. “They’re trying to wear us down. We will not give up. We have too much to lose: our ocean, bay, air, and coastal economy and communities.

According to Clean Ocean Action, the project poses serious harm to marine and coastal ecosystems, marine life, benthic habitats, and, if approved, the project will cause significant negative impacts to the safety, health, and economic well-being of Bayshore coastal communities, and beyond. The severity of these impacts was central to the NJDEP’s denial of a previous application for the project in June of 2019.

“Williams-Transco has been abusing the regulatory system for the last three years. The company has had permits denied, withdrawn permits the day decisions are due, and yet they continue to apply for a project that will bring no benefit to New Jersey, only harm. It is clear that Williams-Transco and their unnecessary and environmentally reckless project are not going away, and neither are we! It is time for the NJDEP and Governor Murphy to end this relentless attack on our environment,” said Peter Blair, Esq., COA Policy Attorney.

Despite repeated requests from towns and citizens, NJDEP has not conducted a public hearing in the Bayshore area during any of the previous three permit evaluations. Clean Ocean Action and other organizations are calling on NJDEP to hold a public hearing in the Bayshore and extend the public comment period, and for NJDEP and NJ Governor Murphy to deny the permits for the NESE project.

Comments can be submitted online at [www.nj.gov/dep/nese/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/nese/) or via email to NESEcomment@dep.nj.gov.

“Williams Transco is at it again. They’re refiling for a permit from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to build an unnecessary compressor station and pipeline in the Raritan Bay, which will serve no other purpose than to contribute to our existing air pollution problem,” said Ed Potosnak, Executive Director, New Jersey LCV. “This project provides no public need in the state of New Jersey, and will destroy nearby vital and critically important environmental areas. It also goes against everything Governor Murphy and all of us who are concerned about the environment are working for. We strongly urge the NJDEP to deny all the permits related to this project.”

For additional information, please contact Peter Blair at PBlair@cleanoceanaction.org or call (732) 872-0111.