

**July 14, 2025**

**The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State**

**NYS State Capitol Building**

**Albany, NY 12224**

**Commissioner Amanda Lefton**

**New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation**

**625 Broadway Albany, NY 12224**

**Re: Request For 120-Day Public Comment Period On The Northeast Supply Enhancement  
Pipeline Application And Three Public Hearings**

*Application ID: 2-9902-00109/00007 Excavation and Fill (EF) ; 2-9902-00109/00009 Water Quality Certification (WQC) ;  
2-9902-00109/00010 State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES)*

*Permit(s) Applied for: Article 15 Title 5 Excavation & Fill in Navigable Waters; Section 401 - Clean Water Act Water  
Quality Certification; Article 17 Titles 7 & 8 Industrial SPDES – Surface Discharge*

**Cc: Cheryl Sandrow [DEPEnergy@dec.ny.gov](mailto:DEPEnergy@dec.ny.gov)**

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**Dear Governor Kathy Hochul and Commissioner Amanda Lefton,**

We, the 121 undersigned organizations, write to request that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) extend the public comment period for the Williams Companies' application for the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) pipeline project from 30 days to at least 120 days, as well as holding three public hearings in the regions that the proposal would impact.

This proposed project, which would bury 17 miles of fracked gas pipeline under the ocean floor in ecologically sensitive waters near Staten Island and the Rockaway Peninsula, poses significant and far-reaching implications for marine ecosystems, public health, climate goals, and environmental justice communities, as well as posing negative impacts on the coastal economies that depend on tourism, recreation, water sports and commercial fishing.

The project was previously rejected by DEC in 2020 due to its violation of New York's water quality standards. Given its scale, its controversial history, and the fact that the project has now returned under dramatically shifting political and environmental conditions, it is imperative that the public be given adequate time to understand and respond to the new application.

A 30-day comment window is insufficient for local residents, scientists, policy experts, and faith- and community-based organizations across affected regions, including Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Long Island, and beyond, to review the thousands of pages of technical documentation submitted. A 120-day comment period would align with DEC's responsibility to ensure meaningful public participation in decisions that will have generational consequences.

This project also raises serious concerns in light of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). New York law now mandates that 70% of our energy needs be sourced

from renewables by 2030, and infrastructure investments must be evaluated through this lens. Expanding fossil fuel infrastructure at this critical juncture not only risks locking us into decades of emissions but also burdens ratepayers and disproportionately impacts frontline communities, which are already facing the brunt of climate change.

Additionally, the timing of the application, submitted shortly before a major summer holiday and amid extreme heatwaves and power grid strain, makes it especially difficult for concerned residents to engage promptly or fully. That's precisely why the DEC must act to ensure a robust democratic process, not an expedited one.

Please extend the public comment period to a minimum of 120 days to allow for a comprehensive public engagement and a transparent process that reflects the gravity of this decision.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to protecting New York's environment and communities.

Sincerely,

Rockaway Beach Civic Association  
Rockaway Women for Progress  
350Brooklyn  
Food & Water Watch  
New York Communities for Change  
Sane Energy Project  
Surfrider Foundation NYC

Alliance for a Green Economy  
American Lung Association  
Citizen Action of New York  
El Puente de Williamsburg  
Frack Action  
Fridays for Future NYC  
NYPIRG  
Physicians for Social Responsibility - New York  
Environmental Advocates NY  
Rise and Resist  
350NYC  
Advocates for Cherry Valley  
Advocates for Springfield  
Albany Progressive Action Network  
All Our Energy  
Big Reuse  
BK ROT  
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter  
Sunrise Movement NYC

WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
North Shore Audubon Society  
South Shore Audubon Society  
Staten Island Urban Center  
Campaign for Renewable Energy  
Catskill Mountainkeeper  
Clean Air Coalition of Western New York  
Climate Crisis Working Group (IMV)  
Climate Defiance  
Climate Families NYC  
Climate Reality Project  
Coalition Against The Rockaway Pipeline  
Coalition for Outreach Policy and Education  
ColorBrightonGreen  
Concerned Health Professionals of New York  
Concerned Residents of Oxford  
Congregation Beth Elohim Climate Team  
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action  
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc. (NY)

Don't Waste New York  
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking  
ExtrACTION Research Group  
Federation of Social Workers  
Fossil Free Tompkins  
FrackbustersNY  
Gas Free Seneca  
Grassroots Environmental Education  
Green Choices Consulting  
Green Map System  
Green Party of Nassau County  
Green Party of Nassau County  
Indivisible Harlem  
Jewish Climate Action Network  
Jewish Climate Action Network NYC  
Merck Family Fund  
Milford Doers  
Natural Resources Protective Association  
Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow  
New Paltz Climate Action Coalition  
New Paltz Climate Action Coalition  
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance  
New York Climate Action Group  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
New York Progressive Action Network  
New Yorkers for Clean Power  
No North Brooklyn Pipeline Alliance  
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
NY Energy Democracy Alliance  
NY-GEO  
NYC 2030 District  
NYCD16/15 Indivisible

NYPAN  
NYPAN Environmental Committee  
Otsego 2000, Inc.  
Outdoor Promise  
Park Slope United Methodist Church, Social Action Committee  
People for a Healthy Environment  
People's Climate Movement - NY  
Protecting Our Waters  
Reach Out America  
Rockaway Women for Progress  
Saavan Blue  
Safe Energy Rights Group  
Save the Pine Bush  
Seneca Lake Guardian  
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion  
Stop the Constitution Pipeline  
Third Act NYC  
Third Act Union Working Group  
Third Act Upstate New York  
Three Parks Independent Democrats  
Tinker Tree Play/Care  
Tom Paine Brigade  
Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative  
Transition Town Port Washington  
Udja Temple  
Upper West Side Recycling  
Veterans for Climate Justice  
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.  
Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions  
WF Consulting