

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Town of Wilton New Hampshire opposes the construction of the proposed Kinder Morgan Northeast Direct pipeline.

The Town of Wilton, New Hampshire, in position statements passed by the Board of Selectmen, and the Energy Committee, an advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen, and the Conservation Commission, joins other communities in New Hampshire and Massachusetts in voicing strong opposition to the proposed construction of the Northeast Direct (NED) pipeline. May 5, 2015:

After considerable discussion amongst committee members the Town of Wilton's Energy committee unanimously voted to oppose the NED proposal. The committee posted a statement of opposition on the town website and recommended that the town's Selectmen publicly support the statement.

"The Energy Committee does not support the construction of the pipeline. An expansion of natural gas infrastructure would be harmful in its own right: it will require the seizure of property by eminent domain, threaten wells, aquifers, and rivers, degrade air quality, and create the potential for spills and explosions. It will decrease property values. It would present an obstacle to implementing existing technologies for renewable energy. It will discourage investment in developing clean energy. It encourages the continued and environmentally destructive process of extracting natural gas by fracking. The pipeline is a bad idea. It provides benefit to Kinder Morgan and the gas producers but questionable if any benefit to the State."

9/28/15:

After heated discussion during a standing room only meeting of the Town of Wilton's Selectmen, the Selectmen unanimously approved a statement in opposition to the construction of the proposed NED pipeline. A copy of the statement was posted on the town's website and letters of opposition containing the Selectmen's concerns was sent to FERC, the Office of the Governor and the PUC.

"The Selectmen of Wilton are opposed to the North East Energy Direct (NED) natural gas pipeline proposed by Kinder Morgan. The Selectmen have the following concerns:

1. The size of the compression station would present a significant risk to our safety, health, and quality of life.
2. The pipeline poses a risk of contamination to the aquifer that is a resource for the Wilton Water Works and private wells.
3. The potential risk is not justified because the pipeline would provide minimal benefits to Wilton or New Hampshire.
4. Our opposition is intended to join neighboring towns such as Milford, Greenville, Brookline, Mason and Temple who are affected by the pipeline.
5. The pipeline would come as close as a few hundred feet from Wilton's town limits and could

threaten our property values.

6. We oppose the use of eminent domain for takings of property for private commercial gain."

10/26/15

After prolonged discussion amongst members of the Wilton Conservation Commission (WCC) and members of the Wilton community the WCC joined the Energy Committee and the Selectmen in publicly stating their opposition to the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline. A copy of their statement of opposition was posted on the town's website.

"The Wilton, NH Conservation Commission strongly opposes the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Pipeline proposed by Kinder Morgan:

A compressed gas pipeline, especially one put underground, out of sight and out of reach, puts plants, wildlife, and aquifers; thus, people's health - at risk. The WCC notes that all of Wilton's drinking water is pumped from wells in Wilton, from aquifers that know no man-made boundaries.

The size and proximity of the proposed compressor station would pose significant health, safety and environmental hazards due to routine as well as accidental discharges of compounds that have known health risks, and other, unregulated compounds into the atmosphere. These discharges have the potential for fire and/or explosion in close proximity (1/4 mile) to the Temple elementary school and to lands conserved by Wilton, Temple, Greenville, Mason, and by private organizations.

The noise impact of a compressor station of the proposed magnitude is entirely out of keeping with the rural, natural character of the area surrounding the proposed site; this would severely degrade the quality of life for people within earshot. In addition, it would degrade the surrounding wildlife habitat the Wilton Conservation Commission is charged with protecting.

The proposed pipeline would transport gas obtained by Hydraulic Fracturing (HF). HF is a process we reject for the same reasons and for their similar consequences: the injection of unspecified and unregulated compounds into the environment, even though that process may take place "somewhere else". The WCC reminds FERC, Kinder Morgan, and the public, that the price of a fuel does not necessarily reflect its cost, and that the real costs are seldom borne by the end users.

We do not support efforts, especially "dirty" ones, to extend the existing fossil fuel infrastructure at the cost of distracting effort and dollars from, and thus delaying the search for, and development of cleaner and more sustainable sources of energy."