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WITH LONG ISLAND'S ECONOMY FACING LOOMING THREAT, A LONG ISLAND COALITION URGES NYS DEC TO APPROVE THE NORTHEAST SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (NESE)

Potential natural gas shortage would put transformative projects like Nassau Hub, Ronkonkoma Hub and Belmont on hold

Approx. 200 commercial & residential projects received denial notice from National Grid, citing an inability to serve them a firm load without NESE

Hauppauge, NY (May 1, 2019) – Warning that the region’s economy is being needlessly placed in jeopardy if diverse energy supplies are denied the bi-county region, the Association for a Better Long Island (ABLI), the Long Island Builders Institute (LIBI), New York Laborers’ and SEIU 1199, call on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to approve the water permit needed for the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) to become a reality.

The joint announcement was made in front of the Massapequa Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing (MCRN), which is seeking access to additional natural gas in order to adequately meet the growing demand for its services. MCRN was denied its natural gas request by National Grid, specifically citing National Grid's inability to confirm capacity.

“The constraint on Long Island’s natural gas supply is already causing pain to hundreds of Long Island businesses and is threatening future economic development on such strategic projects as the redevelopment of Belmont, the Ronkonkoma Hub and the Nassau Hub at Mitchel Field,” stated Kyle Strober, Executive Director of the Association for a Better Long Island.

“Our region needs the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, as it will ensure that facilities like the Massapequa Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing have access to more efficient natural gas and because this obstacle to their business growth is being repeated across Long Island. This project has the means to significantly strengthen Long Island’s workforce, allowing far more efficient and available natural gas to assist in building and enhancing future developments,” Strober continued.

Reducing energy costs with a cleaner fuel

NESE will expand natural gas capacity and serve New York's growing need for additional natural gas supply on Long Island, creating the necessary capacity for the conversion of approximately 8,000 customers annually to cleaner, more affordable natural gas. This will help to potentially reduce thousands of home and business energy bills on Long Island by 67%.

"National Grid's denial of our request for a commercial kitchen and new boilers is a tough pill to swallow. We are simply trying to provide our residents the services they deserve, like a home cooked meal, as well as potentially hire 20 additional employees," said Richard Sherman, Administrator, MCRN.

In addition to serving as the bridge to the future, helping Governor Andrew Cuomo achieve his vision for a carbon neutral future, NESE will also allow for the more than \$300 billion in planned economic development to move forward, along with the tax revenue and thousands of jobs that accompany this growth.

New housing starts under threat

The Long Island Builders Institute strongly supports the need for the construction of the NECI pipeline, reminded Mitchell H. Pally, Chief Executive Officer. "Thousands of affordable and market rate housing units which will become the home of many of our residents are in jeopardy of not being built at this time, which will dramatically affect economic development and housing opportunities throughout Long Island."

The design and construction of NESE is expected to generate approximately \$327 million in additional economic activity (GDP) in the region. The project will directly and indirectly generate 3,186 jobs during the construction period, resulting in an estimated \$234 million in labor income. Currently, National Grid converts approx. 8,000 units annually from oil to natural gas.

"The economic consequences of not moving forward with NESE put in jeopardy \$300 billion of regional development. Our members work when projects get built, and a natural gas moratorium could halt, delay or stop many of those projects. Our members cannot afford to sit home when a solution to the gas moratorium is right in front of us," Vincent Albanese, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, NYS Laborers Organizing Fund.

Impacting tens of thousands of families

Matty Aracich, President of the Building & Construction Trades Council of Nassau & Suffolk Counties, said, "I can say with confidence that without the completion of the NESE, Williams Pipeline, the gas moratorium will cripple the economy and impact tens of thousands of workers and families. These are not just Building and Construction jobs, but other full- and part-time positions of various occupations that each project could provide to residents in the towns and villages on Long Island.

"The Building Trades Council has been supportive of the Governor's bold initiatives on renewable energy. However, at the same time we must continue to educate all parties so they recognize it will take time to develop a substantial renewable energy grid to the point where we can actually replace fossil fuels. In order to transition to a stable Greener Economy we strongly insist that the Governor continues to invest in this project so Long Island, as well as the region, is not cut off from receiving the critical energy natural gas supplies and we can avoid the severe economic consequences of a moratorium," Mr. Aracich concluded.

“Your request...will need completion of the NESE project...”

On March 25, 2019, MCRN submitted a request for 6.9M BTU for the installation of a new commercial kitchen and new boiler/hot water equipment for its 320 bed nursing home facility. On March 27, 2019, National Grid responded that, “After reviewing your requested load, in order for National Grid to supply a FIRM load of 6.9 MBTU, we will need completion of the NESE project.” Notwithstanding the response, MCRN then requested a reduction to handle the kitchen demand of 2.8M BTU. On April 15, 2019 National Grid denied the request again due to the pending NESE project.

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About the Association for a Better Long Island

The ABLI is a Long Island advocacy group whose mission is to protect, improve, and strengthen the Long Island economy by advocating on behalf of sensible growth, affordable energy, a reduced tax burden, investment in infrastructure, and other related issues that enhance the quality of life for all Long Island, thereby protecting the region’s economic future.