

CT SEAFOOD COUNCIL
Barbara Gordon, Executive Director
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Office of the General Counsel for
Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

November 19, 2003

The CT Seafood Council wishes to go on record in strong opposition to the proposed Islander East gas pipeline project.

It is outrageous on the part of Islander East even to have proposed such a pipeline.

We are deeply concerned with damage to our shellfish beds, but we are also appalled at the proposed land location alongside a charming railway; near an elementary school; through an absolutely breathtaking wooded path and bird sanctuary. This gas pipeline would be a travesty and an absolute violation of CT's CZMA. It must be stopped.

CT's DEP has made it absolutely clear that the project is not acceptable.

We ask that you respect the ruling of the CT DEP and uphold its decision.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Gordon, Executive Director
CT Seafood Council

Subject: Islander East: Coastal Consistency
Resent-From: Islandereast.Comments@noaa.gov
Date: Thu, 20 Nov 2003 09:10:35 -0500
From: "Ruth Ann" <ruthann@woodlandscoalition.com>
To: <IslanderEast.comments@noaa.gov>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE COASTAL }

CONSISTENCY APPEAL OF THE

November 20, 2003

ISLANDER EAST PIPELINE COMPANY

My name is Ruth Ann Wiesenthal-Gold and I am submitting this statement to you to ask that you deny the application by Islander East.

You have been inundated with information from experts and well-educated citizens about what this proposal would do to the Long Island Sound. You already know that the DEP rejected the application, with good cause. You are aware of the present condition of the Sound; eutrophication, algae blooms, lobster depletion, hormone run-off. The Sound is in trouble and does not need another assault, especially one from a project that has already been deemed inappropriate.

Long Island Sound literally touches the lives of 20% of the entire population of the United States. For Connecticut alone, it represents billions of dollars to the economy. How can anyone, in good conscience allow more damage to be perpetrated on the Sound?

My organization, which I represent today, the Woodlands Coalition was formed, in part, to work to protect the environment of the state of Connecticut. We are cognizant of how what is done on the land will end up in the Sound; from household cleaning products to car wash runoff, from birth control pills to flotsam that lands there from trash tossed from cars. The damage is and can be done in reverse. Those that are on the land are damaged as well by the damage to the Sound. There are lobstermen who are today painting houses instead of being able to pursue their chosen vocation as well as their avocation of lobster fishing. A body of water that has served this region for 400 years is now slowly choking. People who live inland, who want to take their children to the beach or sailing on the Sound find themselves sailing not on glass and beauty but on trash and chemicals. Long Island Sound is the nursery for many that then feed into the Atlantic. Does it not follow that the benefits the citizens would derive from the Sound, those from Litchfield County to Hartford, from Camden, New Jersey to Valley Stream, Long Island would also be diminished? If we cannot fish the waters, cull her gifts, if we cannot swim, or support the tourism, boating, fishing industries that ultimately support us all, then where will you leave us?

When there are positive alternatives, when there is not a need, when there are ways to provide service to the public and not destroy the very body that has served the public for our entire existence, then your only answer is to deny the proposal. We look to you to follow on the heels of the decision of the DEP to do your part to stem the damaging impact of foolhardy proposals.

Thank you,

Ruth Ann Wisenthal-Gold

Woodlands Coalition

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