

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SITING COUNCIL

* * * * *

ALGONQUIN GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY * APRIL 17,
2002 *
AND ISLANDER EAST COMPANY, LLC, * (10:00 AM)
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF *
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC *
NEED: * DOCKET NO.
221 *

ALGONQUIN GAS TRANSMISSION CO., PROPOSES *
TO CONSTRUCT A NEW GAS COMPRESSOR STATION * NEAR EAST
JOHNSON AVENUE, ROUTE 10 AND *
INTERSTATE 691 IN CHESHIRE, AND TEST AND * UPGRADE
ITS EXISTING NATURAL GAS PIPELINE * FACILITIES IN
CHESHIRE, WALLINGFORD AND *
NORTH HAVEN *

- AND -

EAST COMPANY, LLC, PROPOSES TO *
CONSTRUCT A NEW METER STATION AT 67 *
LAYDON AVENUE IN NORTH HAVEN AND A *
24-INCH DIAMETER NATURAL GAS PIPELINE AND *
ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT FROM NORTH HAVEN *
THROUGH EAST HAVEN, NORTH BRANFORD, *
BRANFORD, AND ACROSS LONG ISLAND SOUND *
TO LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK *

* * * * *

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BEFORE: MORTIMER A. GELSTON, CHAIRMAN

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HEARING RE: ALGONQUIN GAS & ISLANDER EAST
APRIL 17, 2002 (10:00 AM)

1 . . . Verbatim proceedings of a hearing
2 before the State of Connecticut Siting Council in the
3 matter of Algonquin Gas Transmission Company and
4 Islander East Company, LLC for a Certificate of
5 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, held at
6 Central Connecticut State University, Institute of
7 Industrial and Engineering Technologies, on April 17,
8 2002 at 10:00 AM, at which time the parties were
9 represented as hereinbefore set forth . . .

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11
12 CHAIRMAN MORTIMER A. GELSTON: I call
13 this session to order this morning on Wednesday, April
14 17, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

15 My name is Mortimer A. Gelston and I'm
16 Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council. Other
17 members of the Council here this morning are Brian
18 Emerick, Designee for Commissioner Rocque, Department
19 of Environmental Protection; Gerald J. Heffernan,
20 designee for Commissioner Downes, Department of Public
21 Utility Control. And members of -- and Daniel P.
22 Lynch, Jr., and Colin C. Tait. Members of the staff
23 present this morning is Paul M. Aresta, our Siting
24 Analyst, and Robert Golden, Assistant Attorney General.

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1 MR. ASHTON: And they don't like silt as
2 much as clams do. Clams will bury in the silt and come
3 out of it, they can survive in silt to an extent. Is
4 that not correct?

5 MR. WILLIAMS: I -- I have -- I have a
6 little problem with that. Silt --

7 MR. ASHTON: I'm --

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I -- I agree with --
9 - but I want to expand on something that you said --

10 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Mr. Williams doesn't
11 harvest his clams with a clam --

12 MR. WILLIAMS: I used to do that with a
13 rake, yeah. Siltation on a clam bed --

14 MR. ASHTON: I'm not talking about
15 siltation on the bed. I'm talking soft bottom --

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Soft -- yeah --

17 MR. ASHTON: -- clams will live in the
18 soft bottom where oysters may not --

19 MR. WILLIAMS: That's -- that's correct,
20 yes.

21 MR. ASHTON: Okay. But silt is a
22 problem across all beds here --

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay, yeah.

24 MR. ASHTON: Now the majority of beds

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1 are what, are they soft bottom and there are clams?
2 I'm thinking of the area -- it would be northwest of
3 Rogers Island -- west of Rogers Island in the area of
4 the directional drilling --

5 MR. WILLIAMS: That --

6 MR. ASHTON: -- are those clam beds or
7 oysters beds?

8 MR. WILLIAMS: As -- through personal
9 communication with Mr. Waters who is farming those
10 areas, he indicated to me that he employs both clamming
11 and oystering. The -- he stressed to me that north and
12 -- north, south and east of Rogers Island he is
13 currently cultivating oysters.

14 MR. ASHTON: North, south and east --

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

16 MR. ASHTON: -- what about west of
17 Rogers Island?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: He didn't indicate to me
19 what he's cultivating there.

20 MR. ASHTON: Okay. What is your bed
21 128, what does that cultivate? I think it's yours,
22 isn't it?

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Currently, it's just a
24 clam bed, that's all it is, yeah.

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1 MR. ASHTON: Okay. Now, clams are
2 harvested in a different manner from oysters, aren't
3 they?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, they are.

5 MR. ASHTON: Without trying to display
6 my mining ignorance of this thing, I can recall
7 clamming with feeling into the mud with my toes until
8 you hit something that was hard, and with luck it was
9 not a broken bottle. But in a commercial environment
10 can you explain the difference briefly as to how
11 they're harvested?

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure. I -- we use
13 hydraulic clam dredges, which is a cage, it's got a set
14 of teeth, it's got a water manifold --

15 MR. ASHTON: And that mixes water and
16 the clams and the sediment all up, you suck it all up -
17 -

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, you don't -- you
19 sort of --

20 MR. ASHTON: -- and take the clams out -
21 -

22 MR. WILLIAMS: You're sort of blowing it
23 up and back into the cage --

24 MR. ASHTON: Yeah.

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1 MR. WILLIAMS: -- into the dredge, okay.

2 MR. TAIT: Is the cage solid or is it a
3 cage?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, it's -- it's a
5 cage. It's -- most of them are made out of 3-ace bar
6 and they're various sizes and various widths.

7 MR. TAIT: So that it's a mesh and not
8 solid?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: No, it wouldn't -- a
10 solid -- a solid box would act like a baffle --

11 MR. TAIT: You're dealing with people
12 who don't -- who aren't familiar, so a cage is a cage -
13 -

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

15 MR. TAIT: Alright.

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. And basically what
17 we do is we have to pump water down to a clam dredge
18 through a hose, three inch/four inch hose. Depending
19 on the type of bottom if it's soft or if it's shelly or
20 if it's hard, there's -- there's various adjustment
21 that you have -- we have different manifolds, different
22 water pressures, different volumes, different distances
23 between a manifold and the teeth, tones, speeds, on and
24 on. So fundamentally, you're pumping water to the

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1 bottom, you're stirring the bottom up, loosening it up,
2 the teeth come along and the -- in an ideal world the
3 hard material will get caught by the teeth and back
4 into the cage.

5 MR. ASHTON: And the small soft
6 materials will pass through the cage and be redeposited
7 on the bottom?

8 MR. WILLIAMS: In an ideal world, yeah.

9 MR. ASHTON: Yeah.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: In theory that's the way
11 it's suppose to work.

12 MR. ASHTON: How deep does that dredging
13 operation go below the sediment line?

14 MR. WILLIAMS: An actual measurement --
15 you know, I wondered about that myself. It depends on
16 the type of bottom and the water pressure. You know,
17 you can -- you can make a manifold that has so much
18 water pressure and volume, you know, you're going to
19 dig a trench. So that's part of the cultivation is you
20 don't want to be digging down too far with these
21 things. But roughly speaking, I would say anywhere
22 from an inch to maybe three inches roughly.

23 MR. ASHTON: And the clams are all in
24 that level or are they down deeper?

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1 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, they might be --
2 they might be deeper in the wintertime because they
3 will migrate lower into the water -- into the bottom
4 for hibernation purposes, but mostly the smaller clams
5 do. The larger clams don't migrate that much, they
6 stay on the top, they won't migrate that much.

7 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me one moment.

8 (Whereupon, a luncheon recess was
9 taken.)

10 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Questions -- Paul,
11 you all through?

12 MR. ARESTA: Yes, sir.

13 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Where is Ed Wilensky?

14 MR. WILENSKY: Right here. I'm under
15 the table. I'm all through, Mr. Chairman.

16 MR. ASHTON: You're under the table --
17 (laughter) -- that's the wrong answer.

18 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Phil Ashton?

19 MR. ASHTON: Yeah, I've got a few more,
20 Mr. Chairman.

21 Mr. Williams, I -- just as I came in,
22 and I apologize for being late, I heard -- I think that
23 you had mentioned indentations, depressions, whatever
24 you want to call them in the seabed from the Iroquois

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1 pipeline. And as I recall, you mentioned that you had
2 seen these in the fall of 1991. Have you looked in
3 this area recently?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: No, I -- my
5 subcontracting terminated on September of '95.

6 MR. ASHTON: So you have no knowledge of
7 whether they've filled in, or healed, or whatever since
8 -- direct knowledge?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Direct knowledge from '95
10 on the 600 lots would be no.

11 MR. ASHTON: Okay. Have -- has there
12 been any other I'll call it broadly utility work in the
13 area of this discussion coming off Pleasant Point and
14 in that for supply of power or telephone or water to
15 the Thimble Islands, to your knowledge?

16 MR. WILLIAMS: The only thing that I
17 know about in that area, that not being my ground,
18 would be what's on the map, and apparently it's just
19 cable and -- even on this map it says cable and
20 pipeline area, apparently referring to from an on-shore
21 site out to the islands. But I -- I wouldn't have any
22 hands on experience.

23 MR. ASHTON: You don't know whether
24 that's caused any irreparable damage to any of the