



June 24, 2003

Christine Godfrey
Chief, Regulatory Division
New England District, Corps of Engineers
Department of the Army
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

Re: **Islander East Pipeline Project**
CT WQC #200300937 Request for Extension of Time

Dear Ms. Godfrey:

In my letter to you dated June 24, 2003, I asked that you reconsider the length of the extension of time granted to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection ("CTDEP") to review the application for a Water Quality Certification ("WQC") filed with CTDEP by Islander East Pipeline Company, LLC ("Islander East"). The purpose of this letter is to expand on that request.

As you are aware, Islander East filed its first application for a WQC with CTDEP in March 2002. Almost one year later, based on discussions with the DEP about the processing of the application and Islander East's agreement to adopt modified construction methods requested by the DEP, Islander East agreed to withdraw and refile its WQC application to give CTDEP additional time to complete its review of the modified construction methods. Islander East did so based on its specific understanding that CTDEP would act within six months of the refiling date, in concert with issuing the coastal consistency determination which Islander East had agreed to have remanded to the State.

The application was refiled on March 17, 2003. On March 19, 2003, the DEP requested a six-month time extension, or until September 14, 2003, to complete its review. CTDEP stated that an extension to September 14, 2003 would "allow the CTDEP to conduct a simultaneous detailed technical review" of the application and other related permitting matters.

By letter dated April 18, 2003, your office granted an extension of time to CTDEP "through March 14, 2004." Islander East submits that this one-year extension is both unnecessary and inappropriate, in light of the facts that (i) CTDEP has been reviewing the application materials for over a year; (ii) the Islander East project has already been delayed a full year; (iii) Islander East must commence construction in Fall of 2003 or the market will suffer another serious delay; and (iv) CTDEP itself requested

an extension of only six months. For all of these reasons, Islander East respectfully requests that your office modify the extension so that it will extend only through September 14, 2003, the date which was requested by the CTDEP and which is consistent with Islander East's construction schedule.

As you are aware, Islander East is a natural gas infrastructure project designed to meet critical and urgent needs for additional natural gas and electric generation on Long Island. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Gene H. Muhlherr
Senior Project Manager
Islander East Pipeline Company LLC

cc: The Honorable Charles Schumer
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The Honorable Hillary Clinton
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The Honorable Gary Ackerman
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The Honorable Pat Wood III, Chairman
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The Honorable R. L. "Les" Brownlee
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