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March 14, 2003

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Mr. Branden Blum
Senior Counselor
c/o Office of Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1305 East-West Highway
Room 6111, SSMC-4
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Appeal of Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C., From the Objection of the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, to the Islander East Pipeline Project

Dear Mr. Blum:

On behalf of Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("Islander East") and with the concurrence of the State of Connecticut, we request that the Secretary stay the processing of the above Appeal to allow settlement negotiations to occur between Islander East and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection ("Connecticut DEP"). We make this joint request pursuant to 15 C.F.R. 930.129(c)(2) and ask that the matter be stayed until May 1, 2003 at which time the parties shall report the status of negotiations to the Secretary and perhaps submit a request for a further stay or alternative action.

The parties further request that in the event that a stay is not continued beyond May 1, 2003, that the processing of the Appeal in the case at bar shall recommence and further that the scheduling order dated January 10, 2003 be modified to state that Connecticut will have until June 15, 2003 to file its initial brief with any supporting information and data. The parties also request that the Public Comment Period be extended and the scheduling of any Public Hearing also be stayed to allow settlement negotiations to occur between Islander East and the Connecticut DEP. Lastly, that in the event the processing of the instant Appeal shall recommence, the parties request that the Public Comment Period and scheduling of a Public Hearing be extended commensurate with the length of any stay granted by the Secretary pursuant to this request or any subsequent request made jointly by the parties.

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Mr. Branden Blum

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The parties agree that in the event that the instant request for a stay is denied, the time for the Connecticut DEP to submit its Initial Brief and supporting data shall be extended until thirty (30) days after receipt of the denial of this request for a stay by the Secretary.

Please call me or David Wrinn of the Connecticut Attorney General's office (860) 808-5250 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Very truly yours,



Frank L. Amoroso

Nixon Peabody

Attorneys for Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C.

FLA:ams

**cc: Thomas L. Stanton, Jr., Esq. – via facsimile
David Wrinn, Esq. – via facsimile**



VIA FACSIMILE

MAR 17 2003

Frank L. Amoroso, Esq.
Nixon Peabody LLP
990 Stewart Avenue
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David H. Wrinn
Assistant Attorney General
State of Connecticut
55 Elm Street
P.O. Box 120
Hartford, CT 06141

Re: Request to Stay Processing of the Consistency Appeal of the Islander East Pipeline Company

Dear Messrs. Amoroso and Wrinn:

This letter advises that your joint request, dated March 14, 2003, to stay the proceedings in the Islander East consistency appeal, in order to allow settlement negotiations to occur, is granted. Consistent with your request, processing of the appeal is stayed pursuant to 15 C.F.R. §930.129(c)(2), through the period ending May 1, 2003, at which time the parties are to provide this office with a status report.

The State of Connecticut's brief and any supporting information and data will be due 45 days from the date the parties are informed the appeal has recommenced. The public comment period shall remain open during the stay; the federal agency comment period shall be extended to remain open throughout the length of the stay. Upon recommencement of the appeal, both comment periods shall be extended for a period generally commensurate with the length of the stay, taking into account the rescheduled due date for the State's brief. Specific closing dates for the public and agency comment periods as well as the date and location of a public hearing will be determined following the resumption of proceedings for the appeal.

If there are any questions concerning the stay, please contact Branden Blum of this office.

Sincerely,

Karl D. Gleaves
Assistant General Counsel
for Ocean Services

