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FERC ISSUES THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ON NATIONAL FUEL'S NORTHERN ACCESS PROJECT

*Recommended finding of no significant impact is the culmination of its nearly 2-year
environmental review of the Project*

(July 27, 2016) WILLIAMSVILLE, N.Y. – National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation and Empire Pipeline, Inc. (collectively known as "National Fuel"), both subsidiaries of National Fuel Gas Company, announced that their proposed Northern Access Project reached a major milestone today with the Federal Energy regulatory Commission (FERC) issuance of its Environmental Assessment (EA). The Environmental Assessment recommends a finding of no significant impact with the implementation of FERC's proposed mitigation measures, many of which were proposed by National Fuel. FERC's issuance of the EA is the culmination of its 2-year environmental review process for this project and is an integral part of FERC's decision on whether to issue National Fuel a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate the proposed facilities.

An EA is a comprehensive and rigorous review process designed to identify, analyze and evaluate the environmental effects of federally-regulated infrastructure projects. The EA process involves the public in an open and participatory manner and allows for the effective integration of environmental considerations and public concerns. As part of that process, FERC, as the lead approval agency, evaluated the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. FERC also sought input and coordinated with other relevant federal and state agencies as part of the EA process.

As FERC stated in its EA, "based on our analysis, and considering that the project facilities would be largely co-located with existing facilities, ...the impacts associated with the Project can be sufficiently mitigated to support a finding of no significant impact and, thus, an EA is warranted.... We have determined that if National Fuel constructs and operates the proposed facilities in accordance with its application and supplements and our recommended mitigation measures, approval of this proposal would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment."

The proposed Northern Access Project includes the following facilities:

- Construction of 96.49 miles of 24-inch diameter pipeline, beginning from Sergeant Township, McKean County, Pa., and ending at Supply's existing Porterville Compressor Station in the Town of Elma, Erie County, N.Y.
- Installation of an additional 5,350 horsepower of compression at the existing Porterville Compressor Station.

- Construction of an interconnection with Tennessee Gas Pipeline in the Town of Wales, Erie County, N.Y.
- Construction of a new 22,214 horsepower compressor station adjacent to Killian Road in the Town of Pendleton, Niagara County, N.Y.
- Construction of approximately 2 miles of 16-inch/24-inch pipeline in the Town of Pendleton, Niagara County, N.Y.
- Construction of a new natural gas dehydration facility on Liberty Drive in the Town of Wheatfield, Niagara County, N.Y.

“This issuance of the Environmental Assessment is a significant step forward in the FERC review process for the Northern Access Project,” said Ronald C. Kraemer, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation’s senior vice president. “Within the past 2 years, National Fuel has included more than 3,200 pages of environmental analysis as part of the FERC certification process with thorough and detailed studies relative to aquatic resources, vegetation and wildlife, cultural resources, geology, soils, land use, air quality and noise. In addition, we provided more than 54,000 pages of supplemental environmental documentation to FERC including responses to numerous data requests and hundreds of stakeholder comments.”

“With more than 100 years of experience in safely constructing and operating pipelines throughout New York and Pennsylvania, we are committed to working to ensure that this project is constructed in a responsible, environmentally-sensitive manner. This project will provide the North American Pipeline grid with abundant, cost-effective Pennsylvania gas supplies so that Northeast markets can readily access natural gas to fuel the needs of homes and businesses,” Kraemer concluded.

Upon the issuance of the EA, members of the public can make comments to FERC with a deadline of August 26, 2016. National Fuel will respond to submitted comments to the extent there are factual questions and information requested.

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