

**BOROUGH *of* ROSELAND**



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**JOHN DUTHIE  
MAYOR**

**19 HARRISON AVENUE  
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY 07068  
(973) 403-6022  
FAX (973) 403-0978  
MAYOR@ROSELANDNJ.ORG**

October 10, 2013

Honorable Christopher Christie  
State House  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie,

I am writing to you to request your much needed assistance relative to a federally approved project that has the potential to literally destroy our community. The project includes a new installation of a 25,000 horsepower natural gas compressor station that will more than double the pressure through an existing natural gas pipeline that runs through our densely populated community located in western Essex county. The project is being undertaken by Williams Transco and was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Docket No. CP12-30-000.

Our community has many concerns that we feel have gone unnoticed and/or unaddressed by the various agencies that have jurisdiction and who granted approval for this project.

Our first concern of many is that a natural gas explosion could occur at the compressor station, the largest of its size along the pipeline route. An explosion would surely cause loss of life and property.

The newly constructed compressor station component and the pipeline is located on a site that abuts an existing electrical power substation owned and operated by PSE&G, which was recently upgraded as part of the Northeast Reliability Project and the Roseland to Susquehanna Project. The voltage carried through the electric lines has been doubled as a result of the two projects.

The newly upgraded power lines hang above the pipeline and very close to the compressor station as both utilities follow the same right-of-way. Should one of these high voltage wires fall while arching, the possibility exists for it to penetrate the compressor station or the pipeline and cause an explosion.

Additionally, the co-location of high voltage electrical substation to a high pressure natural gas compressor station pipeline in an urban area causes us at the local level to fear that these sites could

become attractive to terrorists seeking an easy target. Terrorist acts at this site could, at a minimum, temporarily paralyze the availability of both resources to our region.

We feel that this project poses more risk than it does reward. Most gas compressor stations are located in rural areas and this one is located in a very densely populated area and right next door to a super high voltage electrical substation. Our citizens cannot understand how those with the authority to approve this project did so.

Our concerns relative to our health, safety and welfare are not without merit. Williams Transco has had many incidents of explosions and other worksite safety issues some as recently as this year and some here in our state.

Back in April of this year Williams conducted a "blow down" at their facility in Roseland. They released four miles of gas from the pipeline into the atmosphere. The smell of gas overwhelmed our entire borough, which led to the evacuation of our local grammar school that is located more than one-half mile from the natural gas facility.

We have requested help from Congressman Frelinghuysen and I have attached some correspondence that he and I have exchanged along with a letter that he wrote on our behalf to FERC. We are awaiting a response to his letter. I have also been in contact with Cindy Randazzo at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and she is putting forth her best effort to help us in securing answers to our concerns.

Our residents have appealed to me to enlist your help. We have faith that you will get involved and help our cause.

Our concerns are as follows:

We need your help in obtaining assurances from those agencies that have oversight regarding these two projects that those agencies have considered the following:

The co-location of a recently upgraded high voltage electrical substation to an existing high compression natural gas pipeline with an added 25,000 horsepower compressor station component, in a densely populated area.

The potential for a gas explosion resulting from an arching high voltage electric transmission line. The potential for these sites to be possible terrorist targets.

The potential for release of natural gas and other toxins from the site and the need for independent air quality monitoring.

One more issue is that Williams Transco intends to monitor this site from a remote location in Texas. They intend to man the site with humans during the day. We feel that it is in everyone's best interest to have the site manned 24/7 with a human being. If the site were to be manned 24/7 then immediate measures would be employed in the event of an emergency. Remote monitoring of the site will only lead to delays. We feel that it should be mandated that the site be manned 24/7.

Governor, we are certain that you understand our issues on this subject. Regretfully, Roseland does not possess the necessary resources to properly address all of our concerns and we trust that you will come to our aid.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and we look forward to hearing back from you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Duthie". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

John Duthie  
Mayor of Roseland

C: United States Department of Homeland Security – Director  
Cindy Randazzo , Director – New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen

Enclosures

# Email From Mayor Duthie to Congressman Frelinghuysen's office

Good afternoon Joan,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me yesterday relative to the captioned subject. Thank you too for providing me with some much needed guidance and for offering your assistance to our borough as we deal with this federally approved project that is affecting our lovely community. We have a couple of concerns that have been brought forward by two groups. One group is the RACS (Roseland Against The Compressor Station) and the other group is an ad hoc committee of concerned citizens that share the same concerns as the RACS committee. The RACS committee submitted a petition to our Governing Body requesting that we research whether or not any federal authority debated the potential hazards associated with the location of the compressor station relative to the PSE&G power substation that has recently been upgraded. The upgrade to the PSE&G electric power station included the doubling of the voltage carried through the high tension wires as part of the Northeast Reliability Project and the Roseland to Susquehanna project. The Gas Compressor station is located on the property that abuts the electric substation and the high voltage lines hang above the gas compressor station and the gas lines, as both utilities follow the same right of way. The public, along with our Governing Body, are gravely concerned that a wire could fall while arcing and penetrate the gas compressor station and/or the gas main and cause an explosion. We addressed this concern with the folks from Williams/Transco who agreed that the possibility exists for such an occurrence, but they offered no resolution to our concerns. It is difficult for a borough such as ours to gain access to information on whether or not FERC, PHMSA, BPU etc... ever examined the proximity of the two utilities to one another and the potential increased hazards that exist due to the close proximity of the two utilities. As a lay person, I agree that placing a high horsepower, interstate gas compressor station right next door to a high voltage electrical power substation station might not be the best idea. However, I am not an expert in the field. We are hoping that you may help us to secure the answer to our concern from whomever granted the approval at the federal level. Regretfully, Roseland does not possess the necessary resources to secure all of the answers to our constituent's concerns, and therefore, we are requesting assistance from your office. One additional concern that has been brought forward is the need for independent air monitoring. As you may recall, Rodney did send a letter out relative to the release of gas from the subject site that resulted in the evacuation of our local grammar school that is located more than 1/2 mile from the compressor station site! We have been trying to locate an independent air quality monitoring firm. However, our search seems to be in vane, as most of the folks who perform this type of testing work directly for companies like Williams/Transco. We were thinking that due to the fact that Williams/Transco has already had an "event" in Roseland that has caused the evacuation of our grammar school that perhaps your office could assist us in getting some help relative to independent air monitoring services through some department of the government.

Joan, thank you so much for instructing me to send you this email expressing our concerns. We really need your help & we appreciate your efforts. We look forward to hearing back from you at your earliest convenience.

Again, many thanks!

Mayor John Duthie  
Bus: 973-226-2336  
Cell: 973-818-0013  
[jduthie@roselandnj.org](mailto:jduthie@roselandnj.org)  
[mayor@roselandnj.org](mailto:mayor@roselandnj.org)  
[john@dwdinsure.com](mailto:john@dwdinsure.com)

RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN  
11TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2306 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3011  
(202) 225-5034

DISTRICT OFFICE:

30 SCHUYLER PLACE  
SECOND FLOOR  
MORRISTOWN, NJ 07960  
(973) 984-0711

<http://frelinghuysen.house.gov>

COMMITTEE:  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND WATER  
DEVELOPMENT—CHAIRMAN  
DEFENSE—VICE CHAIRMAN  
HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3011

September 8, 2013

Honorable Jon Wellinghoff  
Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426-0002

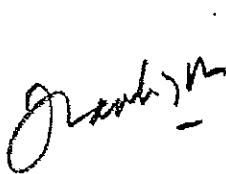
Dear Mr. Wellinghoff:

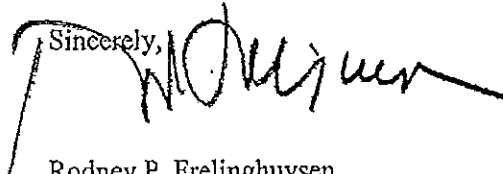
I am reaching out to you once again regarding continuing concerns with the Williams TRANSCO Project in Roseland, New Jersey, in my Congressional District, Docket No. CP12-30-000). It was recently brought to my attention that two other FERC-approved projects may have direct bearing on the safety of my constituents, the Public Service Gas and Electric (PSE&G) Northeast Reliability and the Susquehanna Projects.

It has only recently brought to my attention that the PSE&G increased voltage high tension wires run the same right-of-way as the TRANSCO Pipeline through Roseland. When the Roseland governing body approached Williams to voice concerns about the possibility of a wire arcing and penetrating the gas compression station and/or the main and cause an explosion, Williams acknowledged the possibility did exist for such an occurrence, but could offer no resolution to abate the municipalities concern.

Although FERC reviewed the Williams and two PSE&G applications separately, I am hopeful you will confirm that the FERC looked at the possibility of a disastrous impact that could result due to the proximity of these projects. If this was not part of the review of these applications I would request your assurance that such a review will take place immediately and that all work on these projects will stop until such time as the safety of my constituents can be assured!

Your expedited review and response would be appreciated. Thank you.



Sincerely,  


Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Member of Congress

RPF:pjt

RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN  
11TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE:  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND WATER  
DEVELOPMENT—CHAIRMAN  
DEFENSE—VICE CHAIRMAN  
HOMELAND SECURITY

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2306 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3011  
(202) 225-5034

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3011

September 8, 2013

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
30 SCHUYLER PLACE  
SECOND FLOOR  
MORRISTOWN, NJ 07960  
(973) 984-0711

<http://frelinghuysen.house.gov>

Honorable John Duthie  
Mayor  
Borough of Roseland  
19 Harrison Avenue  
Roseland, NJ 07068-1396

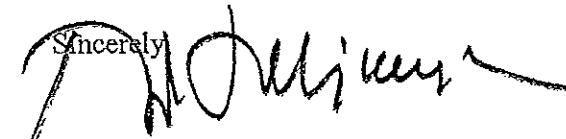
Dear Mayor *J. Duthie*:

Thank you for alerting me to your concerns with the Williams Transco Pipeline's proximity to the Public Service Gas and Electric (PSE&G) high tension lines. I certainly understand how the increase in voltage in PSE&G's lines as a result of the Northeast Reliability and the Roseland to Susquehanna Projects, especially as these lines traverse the same path as the pipeline, would be worrisome to our mutual constituents!

Although I find it difficult to conceive that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) would not have considered the possible impact on the area when they reviewed both the Williams Transco and the PSE&G's applications, this is certainly an issue that should be closely examined. Please know I have reached out to FERC to request their immediate, expedited review.

Thank you, again, for updating me, as I appreciate having the opportunity to be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Member of Congress

RPF:pjt

*Thanks, Rod,  
In speaking  
with me it  
that wonderful  
praise!*