Community Response for Pipeline Safety
Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Massachusetts
Presented by Thomas Matuszko, AICP
Northeast Energy Direct & Connecticut Expansion Projects
Connecticut Expansion Project

- Pipeline loop (the “Massachusetts Loop”) along the existing Tennessee Gas 200 Line to increase the volume of gas to provide a modest expansion of capacity
- 3.8-mile 36-inch outside diameter (OD) pipeline within or adjacent to the existing Tennessee Gas right-of-way (ROW) in Sandisfield
- Appurtenant facilities - mainline valves, blowdown valves, pig launchers, pig receivers, other valves and piping and pipeyard/staging areas
- Withdrawal of more than one million gallons of water from Lower Spectacle Pond in Sandisfield for a hydrostatic test
Northeast Energy Direct (NED)

- Approximately 188 miles of new and collocated 36-inch-diameter pipeline and pipeline facilities extending from Wright, New York through Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin Counties. From Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and then reenter Massachusetts and terminate in Dracut (“Market Path Component” of the NED Project).
NED Impacts

- Public Safety and Health
- Transportation and Local Infrastructure
- Compressor Stations
- Drinking Water
- Rivers, Streams, Waterbodies, and Wetlands
- Invasive Plants
- Special Species Status and Special Interest Areas
- Socio-Economic and Fiscal Issues
- Impacts to Property Owners
Community Context

• Limited Staff
• Home Rule
• No County Government
Working Group

- 9 Berkshire County Communities
- 3 New York Communities
- Select Boards & Town Administrators
- Exchange Information
- Understand and meaningfully participate in the FERC process
- Shared approach to negotiations
Public Workshops

• Roles & Responsibilities
• Federal Preemption
• When & How to Participate
• Pipeline Construction 101
• How to minimize potential impacts
Emergency Response Training

• Volunteer Fire Departments

• One Hazardous Response Team for Berkshire County

• Limited Resources

• Limited Equipment

• Limited Access
Environmental Review & Land Use Analysis

- Monitoring filings
- Sorting through information
- Communicating with FERC through the pre-filing process
- Developing meaningful comments
- Strength in numbers
- Regional context
TAG Grant

✓ • Education and Awareness Program
   1. Engage the community and local officials
   2. Develop education and awareness program
   3. Conduct 4 workshops
   4. Compile web-based resources

✓ • Environmental Review and Land Use Analysis
   1. Compile model review and analysis of potential land use impacts

✓ • Pipeline Failure Emergency Response Training
   1. Day-long emergency response training
Combined Effort

- 23% USDOT PHMSA Grant
- 23% MA District Local Technical Assistance
- 16% Municipal Appropriations
- 38% BRPC
Key Issues & Lessons Learned

• Multiple and substantial resources are needed
• Be prepared to make a sustained commitment
• “Neutrality” is challenging
• Towns were willing to provide financial resources to participate in this process
Key Issues & Lessons Learned

• Finding experts that aren’t conflicted is a challenge – get them early
• Use experts that had been through the process
• Participating in the FERC led regular Pre-Filing Conference calls was indispensable
• Constantly watch the schedule
Other Observations

• Surprised at the inadequacy of the information in the initial filing

• Extensive resources were expended prior to the determination of market need
Thank you

Thomas Matuszko, Assistant Director
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
1 Fenn Street, Suite 201
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-442-1521 ex 34

tmatuszko@berkshireplanning.org
www.berkshireplanning.org