

THE AMHERST LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OPPOSES CONSTRUCTION  
OF THE KINDER MORGAN / TENNESSEE GAS (TGP) PIPELINE

*Statement at DPU Hearing in Greenfield, June 11, 2015*

Construction of the proposed TGP pipeline would cut an environmentally destructive path across productive farmland, forests, and conservation land in western Massachusetts. It would also lock in dependence on fracked natural gas for many decades.

The large diameter and high capacity of the proposed pipeline far exceed even the highest projected future demand for natural gas in Massachusetts. The pipeline would link the Marcellus shale gas fields in Pennsylvania with the Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline to Canada. These facts indicate that the main purpose of the proposed pipeline is for exporting Marcellus shale gas, not for serving Massachusetts needs.

Thus, any tax or tariff imposed on Massachusetts ratepayers would be subsidizing a private, for-profit enterprise, with only minor benefit to Massachusetts residents. Natural gas is used mainly for electricity generation and residential heating. For electricity, only peak demand on certain days of the year is projected to be above current capacity.

The League believes that energy conservation and renewable energy are the first priority: green buildings, energy efficient appliances, wind generation, flattening peak energy demand, etc. and that more can be done to reduce reliance on fossil fuel sources.

Before undertaking any new natural gas pipeline construction project, objective analysis of Massachusetts future energy needs must be carried out, taking into account trends in energy conservation and growth of renewable energy sources. Moreover, an independent analysis of existing gas pipeline infrastructure must be conducted, including the capacity of the Northampton Lateral and Berkshire Gas local feed lines.

In summary, the benefit of the proposed TGP pipeline to Massachusetts residents is small, the environmental and economic price high.