



## PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

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May 13, 2021

Aida Camacho-Welch, Secretary  
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

**RE: Docket No. GO20010033**

Dear Ms. Camacho-Welch,

On behalf of Pinelands Preservation Alliance, I would like to provide comments in the matter of natural gas commodity and delivery capacities in the state of New Jersey to follow up on the stakeholder meeting on April 29, 2021. Thank you for hosting the meeting and for providing this opportunity for written comments.

The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) must adopt a transparent, recurring stakeholder process to determine both capacity and demand of natural gas throughout the state. Such an understanding is essential to determining the true necessity of additional fossil fuel infrastructure, especially given the goals set forth by the Energy Master Plan. Relying on assertions from the utility companies has resulted in projects such as the Southern Reliability Link (SRL) pipeline, now under construction by New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG).

The justification given by NJNG for the SRL pipeline was to safeguard against interstate pipeline failure from a catastrophic event. The enclosed report by Skipping Stone, completed in 2017, was not considered by the BPU at the time, but clearly demonstrates that the SRL is an ineffective solution to the remote possibility of a single point of failure scenerio. The report “concludes that SRL is an unneeded and flawed project.”

Construction of the SRL has included at least 13 unpermitted discharges of drilling sludge impacting wetlands, streams and uplands, as well as the condemnation of an Upper Freehold woman’s home. A transparent process to determine capacity is imperative to ensure that no such destructive and unnecessary infrastructure is constructed again.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhyon Grech". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rhyon Grech  
Policy Advocate  
Pinelands Preservation Alliance