

RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION AND THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO MEANINGFULLY ADDRESS SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS REGARDING THE SOUTHEAST SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AND TO DENY APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT

WHEREAS the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners is committed to protecting the health, safety, welfare, environment, and economic interests of all residents of Forsyth County;

WHEREAS the proposed Southeast Supply Enhancement Project (SSEP), advanced by the Williams Companies including Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (collectively "Transco"), would involve the expansion of pipeline infrastructure through portions of Forsyth County and neighboring jurisdictions, adding approximately 24 miles of 42-inch pipeline through Guilford, Rockingham, Forsyth, and Davidson Counties, delivering an additional 1.6 million dekatherms per day of natural gas;

WHEREAS this pipeline enhancement project raises a range of concerns for citizens, including, but not limited to, public safety risks, water resource impacts, environmental degradation, increased electric rates, and economic risks;

WHEREAS the Transco facilities have one of the poorer safety records of national pipeline companies in the categories of accidents resulting in fatalities, cost per incident, and releases per incident, according to data analysis by the watchdog group, the Pipeline Safety Trust;

WHEREAS these public safety risks include the SSEP's proposed co-location with existing older gas pipelines along much of its route, with an unanalyzed risk of synergistic effects on the SSEP pipeline in the event of a major leak, fire, or explosion involving any of the co-located pipelines;

WHEREAS the Forsyth County-specific public safety concerns include residential neighborhoods, major medical facilities including the Kernersville VA Clinic and the Novant Kernersville Medical Center, and schools within the direct elevated-risk radius or potential emergency evacuation zone in the case of a leak, fire, or explosion involving the SSEP;

WHEREAS the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the federal agency vested with the authority and responsibility to conduct comprehensive environmental reviews, evaluate public comments, and determine whether proposed energy infrastructure projects are in the public interest; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) is responsible for reviewing applications for water and air discharge permits, and ensuring that applicants comply with state and federal environmental rules and standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners respectfully urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to:

1. Fully consider the health, safety, environmental, economic, and quality-of-life concerns raised by Forsyth County residents and other affected stakeholders regarding the Southeast Supply Enhancement Project;
2. Require a comprehensive Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that rigorously evaluates all potential risks and alternatives to the proposed pipeline project, including a “no action” alternative;
3. Ensure that impacted communities are meaningfully consulted and that their input is reflected in any final determinations regarding the project’s approval, route, and regulatory conditions;
4. Require Transco to submit plans for immediate notification of emergency events to affected residents and local emergency management agencies to ensure the public receives timely and effective communication that would enable residents to take appropriate protective action; and
5. Deny approval of the project and the issuance of water or air quality permits until all of the above steps have been satisfied and until it has been determined that the project minimizes adverse impacts to surface waters and wetlands, does not result in the degradation of groundwaters or surface waters, does not result in secondary or indirect impacts that cause or will cause a violation of downstream water quality standards, provides for replacement of permanent impacts through mitigation, and does not degrade air quality.

Adopted this 28th day of August 2025.