

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

Docket No. 7970

Petition of Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. for a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §248, authorizing the construction of the “Addison Natural Gas Project” consisting of approximately 43 miles of new “natural” gas transmission pipeline in Chittenden and Addison Counties, approximately 5 miles of new distribution mainlines in Addison County, together with three new gate stations in Williston, New Haven and Middlebury, Vermont

DISCOVERY REQUESTS TO
AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOODS AND MARKETS
BY
NATHAN B PALMER
of Monkton, Vermont
June 20, 2013

INTERROGATORIES AND REQUESTS TO PRODUCE

Sylvia Jensen

1. Page 9, lines 1-3 Ms Jensen states that after canvassing farmers in Franklin County, “**Weak production from compacted and disturbed soils from construction was the only concern relayed, although the soils' production eventually rebounded over time.**” Do any of the farmers you canvassed in Franklin County farm organically?
2. Are you aware of the letter from Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont dated April 23, 2013, written by Nichole Dehne regarding NOFA's concerns about this project's impacts on organic farms? And if you are aware of this letter, what actions are you taking to ensure that the status of any organic farms will not be compromised by this pipeline and the construction thereof? (Even though the product flowing through this pipeline is billed as “clean and natural” it isn't organic! We are talking about a tube of toxic hazardous material here.)

3. In your analysis, did you consider the ratio of impacted land in relationship to total useable land on the farm?

4. In your analysis, did you consider only dairy operations or did you consider the consequences it would have on a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) or other small scale possibly organic vegetable grower?

5. You state on line 14 page 9 **“Farmers can also be compensated for poor yield if disturbed soils are slow to recover.”**

Who would determine the cause of poor crop yield and rate of compensation, and would this be a simple process or would it involve hiring an attorney? Would loss of customers be a factor in this compensation you are referring to?

6. In regards to question 5, will there be a pre-construction analysis of the soil quality and fertility of all farms in the path of this project (like is done with wetlands and other sensitive areas) so that there will be a baseline to compare post construction soil tests to and any damage can be documented? And will this be paid for by the petitioner? (as the farmer does not need an additional burden to this easement being forced upon them.)

7. Are you aware that in counties in Pennsylvania which are noted for their abundant dairy farms, where a high concentration of Shale gas drilling is occurring, the average number of cows has decreased and the milk production has also decreased indicating that gas drilling and dairy farming do not go hand in hand?

<http://nyagainstfracking.org/an-open-letter-to-the-new-york-farm-bureau/>