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Clerk of the Board
Vermont Public Service
112 State Street, Drawer 20
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2701

March 21, 2013

Subject: Comments to the Vermont Public Service Board in Support of the Addison Gas Pipeline Expansion

I'd like to express my thanks to the Public Service Board for this opportunity to comment. My name is Chris Mallon --- Mill Manager of International Paper's mill in Ticonderoga. The purpose of my comments is to strongly support the gas pipeline project.

International paper has been producing high-quality paper products in this region for over 100 years --- 88 of those years in Ticonderoga. Our paper mill directly employs 616 people. They are machine operators, millwrights, electricians, engineers, accountants, heavy equipment operators -- and the list goes on and on. Good, high-paying, safe jobs. These same people are also mothers and fathers, grandparents, Sunday-school teachers, coaches, mentors, and scout leaders --- and THAT list goes on and on. An additional 600-700 independent loggers and truckers make their living providing wood to the mill from sustainably managed forests.

Many of these people, particularly loggers and truckers, live and work in Vermont. They represent not only international Paper and the forest products industry --- they represent families, friends, communities, schools, churches, etc.

Generations of good, hard-working people have made a good living in jobs at, or associated with, the Ticonderoga mill. We are a long-term part of the fabric of the Adirondack Park and this two-state region.

This mill team has worked hard to keep the mill viable and prosperous during extremely challenging times -- times during which manufacturing jobs have left this country by the tens of thousands. So far we've been successful despite tough odds. Approval of this project will greatly improve our chances of a long-term future: among our team, we often use the term "game changing" to describe its potential impact, and I think that is very true.

We continue to provide a livelihood for many hundreds of people who call this area home. We strongly urge your support of this project.

Thank you

Christopher P. Mallon

Mill Manager

International Paper Company -- Ticonderoga Mill



Hello, my name is Arnold Ross Jr. and I am president of local 497 United Steelworkers and I have been employed with International Paper Co. Ticonderoga mill for 20 years. My father was employed at the mill retiring with 43 years of service. My brother Mark currently is employed as well making us both second generation papermakers.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share with you what this gas pipeline means to us.

One of the greatest demands placed on me as President of our Union is to address every members concerns equally. I do this by not passing judgment or minimizing the importance of every individuals' interest.

In order for me to prepare for what I wanted to say tonight I had to find out what your concerns are in regards to the pipeline. After reviewing several news releases on the internet it became apparent to me that your community and my Union have much in common.

As a Union official I have to say I admire your solidarity: Unified together as a community seeking a satisfactory solution for everyone. Your desire to ensure the safety and prosperity of you neighborhood is also something that is very significant and relates directly to a Union. Unequivocally; probably the greatest feature we have in common is our need to protect our environment. Safety, Prosperity, and Environment.

When I took my pledge to office one of the objects in our Union Constitution directs me to advance and safeguard the economic security and social welfare of my Union brothers and sisters. Natural gas will deliver this objective to the hundreds of people who earn a decent living working for International Paper.

This source of energy would reduce our greenhouse gas emissions immensely, which would address a major concern Vermonters and New Yorkers have had for years. Ironically, now you as Vermonters have an opportunity to take action by working together as you seek a solution which will benefit future generations of New Englanders well into the future.

Before I close, I would just like to say: We are humble working class people. We hunt, fish, camp, garden, and a few operate small farms. We appreciate our jobs at International Papers Ticonderoga Mill, it is part of our community. We cross the bridge and eat at your restaurants and shop at your stores. The Vermont Gas Pipeline Project gives all of us the opportunity to come together. People to People--- Community to Community and join in support of the common good. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arnold Ross Jr.".

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arnold Ross Jr.".

Whitney, Judith

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From: Hudson, Susan
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 10:50 AM
To: Whitney, Judith
Subject: FW: Docket 7970 - VGS Addison County Natural Gas Project

-----Original Message-----

From: vt-cms-support@egov.com [mailto:vt-cms-support@egov.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2013 6:15 AM
To: PSB - Clerk
Subject: Docket 7970 - VGS Addison County Natural Gas Project

Submitted on Saturday, March 23, 2013 - 6:14am Submitted by anonymous user: [68.142.55.235]
Submitted values are:

Docket Number / Project Name: Docket 7970 - VGS Addison County Natural Gas Project Your Name: Kenneth Johnson
Address: 957 South 116 RD, Bristol, VT 05443 Phone Number: 802-453-4147 Email Address: kdjvt@gmavt.net

Comments:

We have a sawmill in Bristol and use a fair amount of energy, however we do not expect to benefit from this project. However, there are many other businesses in this corridor who would benefit greatly from the expansion of the gas line down to Middlebury, Rutland and to Ticonderoga, NY.

We sell wood chips to International Paper (IP) and they have a significant interest in the pipeline. They burn roughly 45 gallons per hour of oil for process heat, in addition to biomass. The IP plant is a major employer and a major resource for good forest management in this area. We need the IP plant to remain in operation to help keep that plant and many other viable as energy costs continue to rise.

I sympathize with the concerns of the communities through which the pipeline will pass, since change is always unsettling. However, VT Gas has an excellent safety record, we attend seminars on DOT issues for truck drivers held at their site and I have respect for their commitment to safety. The pipeline can be installed without significant economic hardship for the communities along the pipeline and without significant safety issues.

Some of the economic hardship complaints should be able to be dealt with by compensating landowners for costs for repairs, however the most negative opponents appear to think they can expect significant ransom payments, which is appalling. I agree, however, that providing for distribution in some of those towns would help spread the economic benefits and perhaps reduce the perception of all loss and no gain for them. I personally have a hard time with comments like "There is no and will not be any public good." This discounts all other residents of the state, in deference to them.

Some opponents will never be satisfied unless there is absolutely nothing built anywhere, I have little sympathy for them. Unfortunately, Monkton has a well deserved reputation as a stronghold of people with that mindset. While they are certainly entitled to their opinion and some naysayers can serve an important function in bending the overall direction of the project somewhat toward the less well served, I urge you to consider the greater overall benefit to the state as a whole and approve the project, with conditions that provide some benefit to the individuals most affected by the installation.



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Essex Junction, VT 05452



I'm Wayne Cota, president and owner of Weston Pulpwood Sales in Essex, Vt. I am the third generation to operate this business. Our company has been contracted to supply wood to International Paper since the 1930's. 15 percent of International Paper fiber comes from Vt. We have a lot of local professional loggers, farmers and sugar makers from Addison, Chittenden and surrounding counties that depend on International Paper and the forest industry. When there is good business, economy thrives. We commend International Paper and Vermont Gas for turning to alternative energy. We need this gas pipeline to go through.