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January 16, 2015

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C., Docket No. PF14-22-000  
Northeast Energy Direct Project  
Response to Request to Delay Open Houses

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Dear Ms. Bose:

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("Tennessee") filed its Request to Use Pre-filing Procedures ("Pre-filing Request") for the Northeast Energy Direct Project ("NED Project" or "Project") with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission") on September 15, 2014, in the above-referenced docket. By notice issued October 2, 2014, the Commission approved Tennessee's Pre-filing Request for the Project.

Tennessee's original proposed route for a portion of the NED Project included approximately 177 miles of new and co-located pipeline facilities extending from Wright, New York to Dracut, Massachusetts (referred to as the Market Path Component of the Project). The proposed path of the Market Path Component extended across the northern part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. At that time, Tennessee proposed to host approximately twelve open houses for the Market Path Component during the months of November and December 2014, between Wright, New York and Dracut, Massachusetts. After filing an updated stakeholder list and the draft Resource Reports 1 and 10 on November 5, 2014, Tennessee notified the Commission on November 6, 2014 that it was postponing the scheduled open houses, to provide stakeholders with additional time to review the information submitted on November 5, 2014.

On December 8, 2014, Tennessee modified the proposed route of the Market Path Component of the Project, officially adopting the so-called New York Powerline Alternative and the New Hampshire Powerline Alternative, rather than the originally-proposed Market Path Component. This new route involves co-locating the pipeline along an existing electric transmission line corridor in eastern New York, western Massachusetts, and southern New Hampshire. With the adoption of the New York and New Hampshire Powerline Alternatives, the proposed revised route of the Market Path Component now includes approximately 188 miles of new and co-located mainline pipeline facilities. This new route follows existing utility rights-of-way for more than 90 percent of the proposed route. In the December 8, 2014 supplemental filing, Tennessee also explained that it planned to host open houses in the Project area, including in the area of the revised pipeline route during the period of January 2015 through March 2015, to provide additional information and answer questions concerning the Project.

Tennessee filed with the Commission on January 9, 2015, a revised schedule and locations for the open houses it is hosting in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire for the Project. Tennessee will host 13 open houses across the length of the proposed Market Path Component between January 27 and February 19, 2015. In response to the schedule, on January 14, 2015, a citizens' group in New Hampshire requested that the Commission direct Tennessee to postpone the open houses to be held

in New Hampshire. Tennessee believes its open house schedule is appropriate, and respectfully requests the Commission to deny this request.

The open houses are sponsored by Tennessee as part of its Public Participation Plan required by the Commission during the pre-filing process. The open houses are intended to allow the public to hear from representatives of Tennessee in person, learn more about the Project, ask questions, and provide their feedback. Significantly, open houses are just the first of many opportunities for interested members of the public to participate in the Commission's review of the NED Project. During the administrative review process, members of the Commission's staff will hold their own Commission-sponsored scoping meetings in the Project area to aid the Commission in defining and refining the scope of the environmental impacts of the Project. The scoping process and meetings are another important opportunity for affected property owners and other stakeholders to provide detailed comments about issues pertaining to their properties, including the existence of sensitive environmental features, potential alternatives, and construction constraints.

Even after Tennessee files its formal certificate application for the NED Project, members of the public still have multiple opportunities to participate in the Commission's review process. The Commission will issue public notice of Tennessee's application and officially open the scoping period for the Project, soliciting comments and motions to intervene. Since the Commission is almost certain to prepare an environmental impact statement ("EIS") for the NED Project, the Commission will first prepare a draft EIS. Upon issuance of the draft EIS, the Commission will open up a new comment period, allowing interested members of the public to comment on the findings in the draft EIS on the record. In addition, members of the Commission's staff will hold another round of public meetings in the Project area to hear public comments, on the record, on the draft EIS, before considering the comments and issuing a final EIS.

This process, including pre-filing and the Commission's consideration of Tennessee's application for the NED Project, is likely to take approximately two years. Tennessee's open houses are just the first opportunity for the public to hear from representatives of the company in person during this lengthy process. There are multiple, significant opportunities for affected landowners, communities, and stakeholders to participate and provide comments on the record over the course of the Commission's extensive review process. Consequently, Tennessee does not believe that it is appropriate to postpone the open houses. In fact, doing so would eliminate an immediate opportunity for the public to hear directly from Tennessee representatives early in the process. Simply holding the open houses as scheduled does not foreclose any of the other opportunities for interested members of the public to participate in the proceeding. However, postponing the open houses, and effectively slowing down the Commission's review, would only prolong and exacerbate the pipeline capacity constraints driving the high cost of energy in New England. Therefore, Tennessee respectfully requests that the Commission deny the request to postpone the open houses.

Any questions concerning the letter should be addressed to the undersigned at (713) 420-4544.

Respectfully submitted,

TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE COMPANY, L.L.C.

By: /s/ Jacquelyne M. Rocan

Jacquelyne M. Rocan

Assistant General Counsel