

#### Northern Access 2016 Project Pendleton Compressor Station

Docket Number CP15-115

# Northern Access 2016 Project

- \$451 million project to expand the natural gas infrastructure of 2 National Fuel Gas Company subsidiaries:
  - National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation
  - Empire Pipeline, Inc.
- Enable economically produced regional supplies of natural gas to enter the North American pipeline grid, including Western New York utility markets
- Project facilities span McKean County, Pa., and Alleghany, Cattaraugus, Erie and Niagara counties, N.Y.
- Project is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- Lengthy and rigorous environmental and regulatory review of project began July 2014
- FERC Application filed March 2015
- FERC Certificate typically received approximately 1 year after application

# **Project Context**

- Pendleton Compressor Station
  - 2 @ Solar (Caterpillar) T-70 turbine-power natural gas compressors in buildings
    - Total of 22,214 horsepower
  - Meter and odorizer building
  - Electrical control and office buildings
  - Ancillary equipment: No storage tanks
- Approximately 2 miles of new pipeline
  - Approximately 1.1 miles of 24" pipeline to compressor station
  - Approximately 0.9 miles of 16" pipeline leaving compressor station

# Pendleton Project Facilities



#### **Proposed Facility Map**



### **Station Site Layout**

# Meet or beat all federal safety codes for design and operation

- State-of-the-art control system:
  - Fire detection
  - Gas detection
  - Onsite automated fail-safe safety control systems
    - No off-site intervention required for shutdown
  - Automatic emergency shutdown system
- Monitored 24/7 by local National Fuel Gas Dispatch Center
- Highly trained and qualified National Fuel personnel operate 38 stations
  - On-site daily maintenance/inspection (M-F)
  - Local and on-duty and on-call station technicians

# **Compressor Station Safety**

#### Minimal to no predicted increase over ambient noise levels at closest residences

- State-of-the-art noise control
  - All sources of noise are treated
  - Acoustically designed building enclosures
  - Silencers on all vent "blow downs"
- Federal requirement of 55 dBA Ldn (day-night average) at closest residence
  - Equivalent to 48.6 dBA continuous
- Predicted noise level\* approximately 15 dBA Ldn better than federal requirement
  - Equivalent to 34.4 dBA continuous

\*Pending results of noise study

#### State-of-the-Art Noise Control



"The day-night average sound level (Ldn ) is the average noise level over a 24hour period. The noise between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. is artificially increased by 10 dB."

Data courtesy of the Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A&M University

### Federal Noise Requirement

#### Meet or beat stringent Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permit requirements

- Permit requirements are designed to protect public health and welfare including sensitive populations
- Air dispersion modeling assures air quality standards (NAAQS) are met at compressor station property line
- Annual emission testing for DEC demonstrates compliance
- "Solar has more than 95,000,000 operating hours with SoLoNOx technology [and] has saved an estimated 3,300,000 tons of NOx emissions since introduction and received a Department of Energy (DOE) grant to develop the next generation of high-efficiency, low-emission gas turbines." -Caterpiller website

# Low-Emission Technology

#### Federal Requirement: No perceptible increase in vibration during operation

- Turbine compressors inherently vibration free
- No blasting or driven piles during construction



### **Vibration Free**

# **Minimized Station Lighting**

- Normal: Building entry lighting only
- Staffed: Shielded "down-lighting" only as required for safety
- Lighting controlled by station control panel

# Minimized Lighting



# Proposed Design

# Aesthetic treatment to fit with the character of the community

- Retained architect to assist with "agricultural design"
- Building architectural treatments
- Exhaust silencer enclosure/silo
- Berms and evergreen visual barrier
- Site layout to reduce sightlines
- Minimize visible above grade infrastructure
- Conservation deed restriction and plantings; preserves "buffer acreage"

## Aesthetic Treatment

### View from Killian Road





#### **Southern Views**

## **View from Beach Ridge Subdivision**





#### Northwest Views

No quantifiable evidence in the marketplace indicating a discernible impact on either property values or appreciation rates for properties in close proximity to natural gas compressor stations.

- Study results from 7 New York locations
- Constructed on large parcels of land set-back well off road.
- Both natural buffers and constructed buffers are utilized as barriers for noise and view.

*September 2015 study prepared by NYS Certified General Real Estate Appraiser* 



Porterville Compressor Station

- Station built in 1950s
- New upscale house adjacent
- No apparent impact on valuation

## **Protecting Property Values**

#### Industrial Zoning — Use fits within "Essential Services"

- Station is not "Heavy Industry"
  - The facility would be part of critical energy infrastructure necessary for the transportation of natural gas through our system, and bears no resemblance to heavy industry.
  - There is no processing of natural gas or any other product on the site.
  - The only emission from the site is the products of combustion of natural gas the same result as the burning of natural gas in the furnaces of homes in the surrounding area.
- Significant distance from residential development
  - 1,600' to closest proposed Beach Ridge Meadows
  - 2,800' to closest Ridgeview development
  - Extensive wooded buffer between Ridgeview Drive
- 2.8 miles to Starpoint Central School
- No pipeline construction adjacent to Frontier Chemical Site
- Remove and restore Aiken Road Meter/Odorizer Station
  - Incorporate in new station design within enclosure

# Site Attributes

#### Local Company Growing the Local Economy

- Headquartered in Williamsville, N.Y. (NYSE: NFG)
- More than 110 years experience
- In Western New York:
  - Employs 1,240 employees (728 union)
  - Supports 1,346 retirees
  - More than 230 employees and retirees live in Niagara County
- Over the last 5 years:
  - Hired 423 new employees
  - Invested \$4.2 billion invested in Western New York and Pennsylvania capital expenditures and infrastructure
  - Paid \$380 million in taxes in New York state
  - Donated \$7.2 million in employee, Company and Foundation donations (\$1.6 million in 2014)

# Our Company

#### Significant Annual Taxes in Niagara County

- Starpoint Central School: \$1,587,000
- Niagara-Wheatfield Central School: \$373,000
- Niagara County: \$748,000
- Town of Pendleton (fire, water, etc.): \$103,000
- Town of Wheatfield (fire, sewer, etc.): \$25,000
- Total Estimated Property Taxes: \$2,837,000
- Total Niagara County Sales Tax: \$2,403,000

# **Direct Local Impact**

- Total project investment by National Fuel
  - \$451 million
    - \$354 million in New York
- Direct/indirect economic impact of \$923 million
  - Multiplier effect adds \$472 million with ripple effect related to increased economic activity during construction
- Construction estimated to create 1,000-1,200 jobs throughout entire project
  - \$138 million in direct, incremental payroll
  - \$63 million in North American-sourced pipe and compression
- Estimated economic impact in annual property taxes in 4 New York counties of \$11.5 million
- One-time sales impact of approximately \$6.6 million for 4 New York counties

# Substantial NYS Investment

## **Timeline of Events**

## September-November 2015

- Community Outreach Focused on New Site
- Noise and Environmental/Engineering Studies
- Pipeline Routing and Surveys
- Compressor Station Site Tours
- Begin Site Plan Approval Process
- Begin Community Benefit Discussion
- Public Information Forum
- FERC Filing Amendment
- FERC Scoping Meeting and Comment Period

# Next Steps



- Meet or beat all federal safety codes for design and operation
- Design and construct the station for minimal to no predicted increase over ambient noise levels at closest residences
- Meet or beat stringent Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permit requirements
- Design, construct and operate the station with no perceptible increase in vibration

#### Our Commitment To the Community & FERC



- Minimize and direct station lighting only as required for safe operation
- Design the station facilities, buildings and property to fit with the character of the community and minimize impact on surrounding property
- Empire will not seek any property tax abatements

#### Our Commitment To the Community & FERC



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# **Contact Information**