



February 7, 2014

Heather Hunt, Executive Director
New England States Committee on Electricity
4 Bellows Road
Westborough, MA 01581

RE: Comments on increased pipeline capacity

Dear Heather,

The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, (MMWEC), appreciates the efforts NESCOE has undertaken along with the New England governors to increase natural gas pipeline capacity. MMWEC works with Massachusetts municipal utilities to provide their customers with low-cost and reliable electricity. We plan, develop and manage energy resources in order to perform this function.

Natural gas is a critical piece of our electrical energy infrastructure. We have recently seen natural gas prices climb precipitously causing large increases in the price of electricity. ISO-NE has a difficult enough job scheduling power plants every day to provide adequate electricity. When constraints on the natural gas system cause those gas plants to be economically inefficient, ISO-NE must go to other sources. As a result, we have seen many more oil and coal powered plants brought on line.

Bringing 2 billion cubic feet per day of additional pipeline capacity to New England will allow us to have rates that are competitive with the rest of the country. This would remove the disadvantage New England has had to suffer from for many years.

Thank you for your efforts to date and I strongly urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to once and for all place New England on an even footing with rest of the country with adequate access to natural gas which will allow us to provide our municipal customers competitively priced electricity.

Sincerely,



Peter Dion, President MMWEC