

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Pipeline Company ("Pilgrim") is proposing to build a new bidirectional Pipeline through the Borough of Watchung ("Borough") that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey ("Pipeline"); and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, understands that the Pipeline will carry oil extracted through a process of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," which has been alleged to deplete clean water resources, create toxic air emissions and radioactive waste, and release large quantities of methane gas into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body also understands that the oil to be transported in the Pipeline has a high vapor pressure, making it generate combustible gases; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body believes that transporting oil in the Pipeline through the Borough potentially threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Pipeline raises significant safety concerns for the Borough, risks potential harm to Borough and County of Somerset infrastructures, and negatively impacts future development in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, due to the constraints of available workspace, construction of the Pipeline will place heavy equipment in close proximity to homes and foundations; and

WHEREAS, temporary workspace usage will also impact existing soils, reducing water absorption and increasing future flooding possibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body understands that the Pipeline will carry a large volume of highly flammable oil through certain residential neighborhoods, which will place them in harm's way should an explosion or spill occur; and

WHEREAS, any rupture or compromise of the Pipeline, even without an explosion or fire, will require extraordinary cleanup efforts, could force many Borough residents from their homes, and place a large number of Borough residents in close proximity to hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) only has 135 inspectors to oversee 2.6 million miles of pipeline, and only a fifth of that Pipeline system has been inspected by PHMSA or its state partners since 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Pipeline may decrease the values of homes located along its route and in surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, many Borough residents depend on ground water and public community water systems for potable water supplies, the integrity and safety of which may be jeopardized by the Pipeline.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council of Watchung Borough as follows:

1. That the Borough Council hereby calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, proposal, surveying, or construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline through and within the municipal borders of the Borough; and
2. That the Borough Council hereby requests that Pilgrim provides a full Environmental Impact Statement to assess the myriad environmental consequences of the Pipeline; and
3. That the Borough Council hereby directs the Borough Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the following: Governor Chris Christie; State Senator Thomas Kean, Jr., Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz, Somerset County Chosen Board of Freeholders; and Governing Bodies of all Somerset County Municipalities.

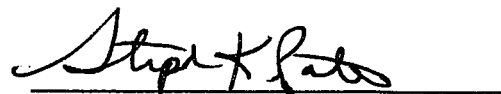


Council

Date: August 21, 2014

Index: Misc.

C: As listed 8/26/14



Stephen K. Pote, Mayor