

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20426

March 20, 2017

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:


Thank you for your February 1, 2017, letter regarding Algonquin Gas Transmission L.L.C.'s (Algonquin) Atlantic Bridge Project (Docket No. CP16-9-000). As you know, the Commission issued an order authorizing the project on January 25, 2017. The Commission concluded that the proposed project was consistent with the Commission's Certificate Policy Statement, and that, if constructed and operated as described in the Environmental Assessment, the potential environmental impacts of the project do not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. For these reasons, the Commission concluded that the project was in the public interest.

In considering applications for natural gas pipeline projects, the Commission takes great care to ensure that concerns raised by the public are given appropriate consideration. The Commission's determination in the Atlantic Bridge proceeding was based on a thorough review of the record that was developed with numerous opportunities for public involvement during the proceeding. Public comments were considered and responded to both in the Environmental Assessment issued on May 2, 2016, and the Commission's order approving the project, issued on January 25, 2017.

A number of parties have filed requests for rehearing of the Commission's order authorizing the Atlantic Bridge Project, and those requests are pending before the Commission. As you noted in your letter, with the departure of former Chairman Norman Bay, the Commission was left without a quorum, and is thus unable to act on requests for rehearing. The Commission will carefully consider the arguments made by the parties in their rehearing requests. Once the Commission has a quorum, the Commission will act on the rehearing requests as soon as possible.

Your comments have been placed in the docket for this proceeding. If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Cheryl A. LaFleur  
Acting Chairman