

## PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS

Date: April 22, 2014  
To: US Department of Energy Secretary, Dr. Ernest Moniz  
Quadrennial Energy Review Task Force Secretariat  
Energy Policy and Systems Analysis Staff  
Massachusetts Governor, Deval Patrick  
From: Leigh Youngblood, Executive Director,  
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, 1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA 01331  
North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, and  
Massachusetts Land Initiative For Tomorrow  
Re: Gas and Electric Infrastructure Constraints in New England  
Kinder Morgan Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co.'s Northeast Expansion Project

I presented these comments in person at the Hartford Public Meeting on April 21, 2014.

Since 1986, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has conserved 27,000 acres of land in two-dozen north-central Massachusetts (MA) cities and towns partnering with hundreds of private landowners and local, state, and federal agencies for the benefit of the environment, the economy, and future generations.

Mount Grace is keenly aware that no "public convenience" will be achieved by construction of a new shale gas pipeline across the northern tier of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Kinder Morgan's Tennessee Gas Pipeline proposal to have local rate payers finance the destruction of conserved and/or intact natural resources that are relied upon for public health for the purpose of transferring outdated fossil fuels -- which are unnecessary for meeting an already shrinking regional energy demand and detrimental to a global atmosphere increasingly reactive to greenhouse gases -- taxes the public in multiple ways only to funnel the resulting immense private profits to relatively few.

The New England states are increasingly achieving record energy efficiencies<sup>1</sup> and readily embrace community-scale renewable energy infrastructure. In lieu of a new pipeline, for example, the \$2 Billion dollar price tag of the MA section of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline could be more prudently spent installing 4KW rooftop solar systems on 100,000 homes which would collectively generate \$80 Million dollars' worth of electricity annually - without compromising the land or our atmosphere. An alternative infrastructure investment such as this at this scale, 400MW, would provide numerous benefits to the public interest while avoiding both critical losses to one hundred years of prior investments in land conservation<sup>2</sup> and exacerbations of climate volatility being experienced today and projected to worsen.

1 American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, press release dated November 6, 2013;

2 History and Importance of Land Use and Protection in the North Quabbin Region of Massachusetts (USA)