

May 1, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

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In recent public presentations, Kinder Morgan and Tennessee Gas have characterized the company as being “in partnership” with Berkshire Natural Resources Council at the Olivia’s Overlook site in Berkshire County.

BNRC is not a Kinder Morgan “partner” and welcomes the chance to clarify this relationship.

BNRC has not granted permission for survey work on its land related to the newly proposed pipeline. Our acknowledgment of the isolated benefits of a 20-year-old mitigation project should not be construed as general support for Kinder Morgan’s ongoing plans in the Berkshires or Massachusetts. BNRC has not yet taken a position on the new pipeline project or its advisability.

In 1994, Tennessee Gas installed a third pipeline in an existing R.O.W. through a BNRC property now known as Olivia’s Overlook. With help from state elected officials, BNRC convinced the company to mitigate the impacts of this work by turning a hilltop equipment staging area on BNRC land into an improved parking lot. The company also made a financial contribution which, paired with a DEM grant and private donations, allowed BNRC to create its first walking trail. Today, Olivia’s Overlook and the Walsh Trail are popular outdoor destinations.

The real credit for these amenities goes Anson and Ike Stokes, John and Olivia Stokes Hatch, and their respective descendants. Their gifts of land, money and collaborative friendship since 1971 represent the truly enduring partnership with BNRC at this beautiful mountain saddle on Yokun Ridge.

In the context of today’s debate, the Olivia’s Overlook project is more accurately described as successful partial mitigation for a project with much broader impacts and implications. The project is an example of the type of investment that a company can and should make, many times over, if it is given the privilege of installing massively intrusive and profitable private infrastructure through a community.



Tad Ames  
President