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ACUSHNET — The chairman of the LNG Study Committee erupted in anger and frustration at the panel’s meeting over language in new Eversource Energy document that says a proposed 6.8 billion-cubic-foot liquefied natural gas facility will have the ability to distribute LNG throughout the Northeast by truck.

Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher, the committee chairman, joined with Police Chief Michael Alves in mailing off a stern letter to project manager Jeffrey Martin demanding an explanation and expressing alarm that such distribution has never been discussed with public officials or with the public.

With Eversource officials and other regulators in the room, Gallagher gave them a stern warning about the seriousness of this news.

“We may be country bumpkins, but we deserve some respect and we’re not getting it,” Gallagher said.

In their letter, Gallagher and Alves declare that “increased LNG transport through Acushnet is not something that we, as the lead public safety officials of this community, will accept.”

The document is what is known as Resource Report 13 and describes the engineering and design of the LNG terminal to be located off Peckham Road.

Eversource spokesman Michael Durand said the language was included in the document to avoid being over-specific about who might get shipments of LNG from this site, which so far is limited to shuttling trucks on the property to fill the old, smaller tanks with LNG from the new ones.

The company’s intentions remain as they have been since the project was proposed last year, and that is to provide power plants with LNG during peak periods to avoid shortages and keep prices under control, he said.



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Gallagher said this breaks a fundamental promise by the company to get as many LNG trucks off the road as possible and not add to the traffic with new distribution.

Adding to his frustration, he said, is the fact that the report was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the final day of the official comment period, leaving no chance for people to read it or react to it.

Durand said the timing was coincidental and that FERC has often said that comments will be accepted well beyond the deadline of May 31.

The language in the document that upset Gallagher says, "The LNG facility will include support facilities for trucking. The trucking facilities are designed to load LNG onto trucks in the event of a mutual aid request from other LNG facilities in the Northeast or to otherwise support emergency loading/unloading operations.

"The trucking facilities will also be capable of supporting LNG loading and delivery for distribution in the Northeast, should commercial arrangement for such deliveries be entered into at a future point," says the document.

No such arrangement has ever been discussed, Gallagher said, with panel members John Roy and Bill Lima agreeing with him. Gallagher said that many questions about export should have been about distribution, it appears.

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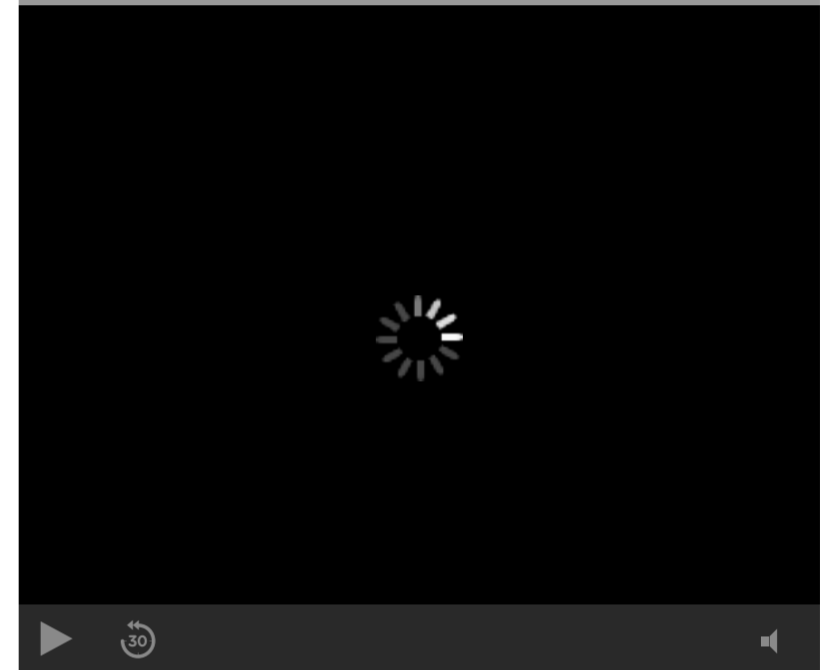
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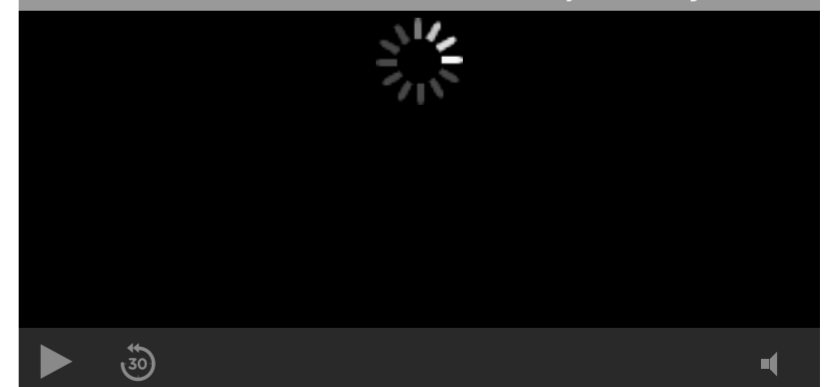
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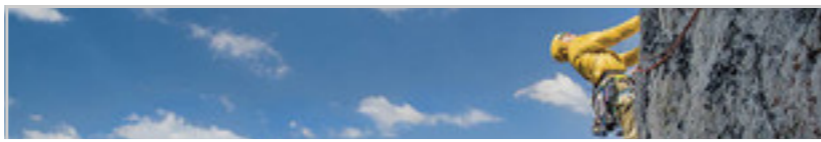
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