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Eversource: Off-site trucking provision needed for flexibility at Acushnet LNG plant

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ACUSHNET — The spokesman for Eversource said Wednesday that the company placed a sentence about trucking LNG off-site from its Peckham Road location because it needs flexibility in the way it manages liquified natural gas.

It is also related to an issue that will attract the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s attention: The fact that the two LNG facilities will be owned by different entities and managed by Eversource, Michael Durand said. That will mean contracts between them and to no one else, he said.

“If we were to be so specific in a filing to say we want to solely deliver LNG to the Eversource plant next door, that would be problematic because we would be too narrowly focused in a filing such as this one. We have said right along that we would like to have access if necessary in an emergency to be able to truck off-site to other locations,” Durand said.

Acushnet Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher said he wasn’t buying that explanation, however, and so far neither is Selectmen Chairman Garry Rawcliffe, who said he hadn’t yet read the report to FERC “but that sounds like an end run to me.”

He said he is already concerned with 300 trucks a year coming to the existing plant with 10,000 gallons of LNG and making the tight corner at the Peckham Road and Acushnet Avenue.

Roger Cabral of SouthCoast Neighbors United attended the Tuesday meeting and said he was unimpressed with Eversource’s explanations for the wording of the document. “I’m not surprised,” he said, “I’m not surprised at all; in fact they’ve been doing things they don’t disclose, they speak half-truths and distortion of the facts.”

The LNG Advisory Committee will wrap up its report to selectmen in a June 20 special meeting devoted exclusively to the subject.

The reason: Many more reports on the project are due to be filed by June 30, and panel Chairman Gallagher wants the chance to examine them as a committee and make recommendations.



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It was Gallagher, the town fire chief, who discovered a passage in a document filed with the FERC May 31 that stated the project will include the ability to ship LNG out by truck to the northeast should there be a contract.

Gallagher teamed up with Police Chief Michael Alves to demand in a letter to Eversource' project manager Jeffrey Martin that the language be removed, if only because adding trucks on the road is diametrically opposed to what Eversource has been saying all along.

Getting trucks off the road by filling the existing two tanks with LNG from the two new ones has been the goal all along and remains so, said Eversource spokesman Durand.

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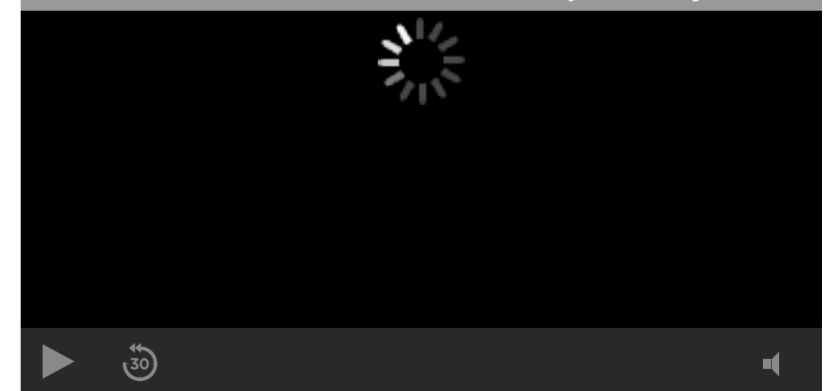
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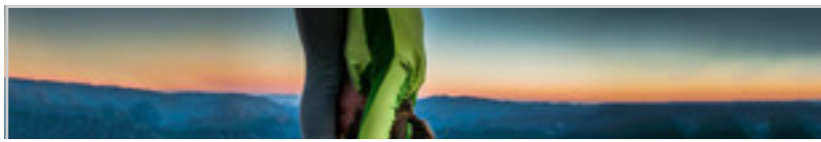
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