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ACUSHNET

Hurdle arises for Eversource LNG/natural gas pipeline and storage project



By Steve Urbon [Follow](#)

Posted May. 10, 2016 at 10:55 PM

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ACUSHNET — A possibly significant wrinkle has developed in the process of reviewing the Eversource LNG/natural gas pipeline and storage project.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has set a May 31 deadline for submitting public comments for inclusion in the official record — and for the most significant impact.

But as Kevin Gallagher, fire chief and chair of the town’s LNG Study Committee, pointed out, there are some documents to be filed by the energy companies in June, weeks later.

The panel discussed this development with Assistant Attorney General Sarah Bresolin, one of seven assistants assigned to review the Algonquin/Access Northeast/Spectra/Eversource application.

She said that the attorney general has appealed to the FERC for an additional 45 days beyond Memorial Day weekend. Gallagher had also written a letter to the same effect, to be sent to the FERC by the committee.

Bresolin provided a review of the events so far as they relate to her office, which has a mandate to protect customers of energy and telecommunications companies. The centerpiece so far is a report commissioned by the AG and published last year that concluded that the state doesn’t need any more LNG or natural gas capacity and that any peak demand periods can be handled with existing underused capacity.

Questioned on the matter, she said she does not understand w—hy Eversource needs to build a 6.8 billion cubic foot facility in Acushnet to meet demand that only occurs for a few weeks in the depths of winter.

She also outlined Attorney General Maura Healey’s objective of rejecting a new Department of Public Utilities policy that allows the energy companies to have the ratepayers foot the bill and bear the future risks involved depending on the [markets.The](#) matter was the subject last week in a session of the Supreme Judicial Court, which has jurisdiction over DPU decisions.

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The other guest speaker at Tuesday's meeting was State Police Major Christopher Mason, who is assigned to the Massachusetts Fusion Center. It is one of two in the state and many across the country organized after 911 to gather, analyze and distribute information about threats and problems that might affect national security.

The Fusion Center looks into not only such things as information it receives from international intelligence agencies but domestic concerns as well. He gave as examples the ongoing opioid epidemic, the rash of school bomb threats by robo-callers, and surveying preparations for the Boston Marathon last month.

May is a heavy schedule for LNG in Acushnet.

The state's Energy Facilities Siting Council will be in town on Thursday, May 12 at 7 p.m. at the Ford Middle School to take public comments on the LNG project.

The FERC then arrives on May 18; the agency will attend an afternoon public meeting at 3 p.m. of the advisory board to answer questions directly, followed at 6:30 p.m. at the Ford Middle School so the general public can ask questions of the review panel directly. All of these sessions are expected to be heavily attended because they are a rare and possibly unique opportunity to get answers from the agency that must issue permits for projects such as these.

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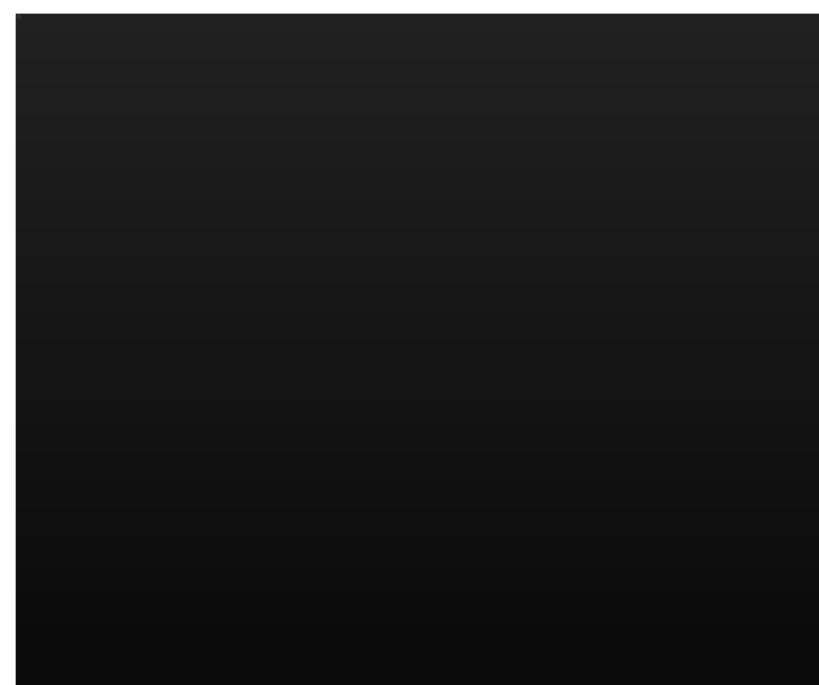
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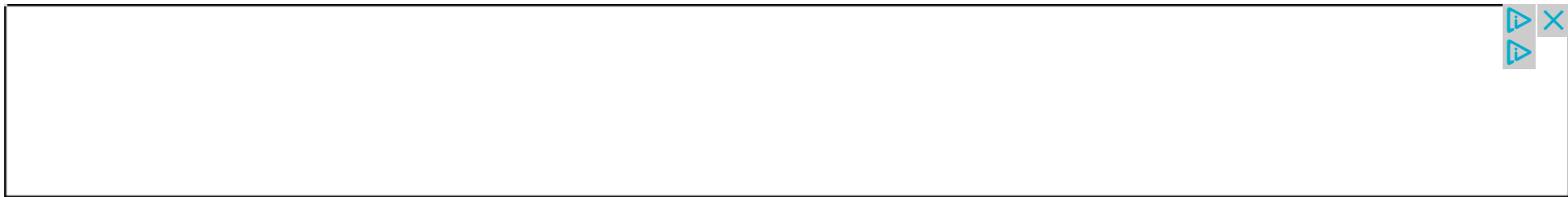
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Wednesday, May 11, 2016						
	Loops/Links				11:00 am	
Gallery 65 on William						
	South Coast Artists Show				11:00 am	
Gallery X						
	Severin "Sig" Haines Exhibit				5:00 pm	
Buzzards Bay Coalition						
	Awakening Faith: Reconnecting with Your Catholic Faith				7:00 pm	
St. Mary's Church						
	Freetown VFW Bean Bag				7:00 pm	
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