

DOCKET NO. 134B - An amendment to the Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P., Certificate of Compatibility and Public Need to construct, operate, and maintain an interstate natural gas transmission pipeline from Sherman to Milford and Long Island Sound.

Connecticut

Siting

Council

February 21, 1991

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 11, 1990, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to the Iroquois Gas Transmission System L.P. (Iroquois) for the proposed construction, operation, and maintenance of the Connecticut portion of a natural gas transmission line. (Docket 134, Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order, dated October 11, 1990)
2. The Council's Decision and Order specified that construction of the pipeline across Long Island Sound shall be between the period of October 1 and May 31. (Docket 134, Decision and Order, dated October 11, 1990, p. 7)
3. On January 22, 1991, Iroquois submitted a request to the Council that the Council's Decision and Order be amended to allow construction in Long Island Sound until July 31. This two month extension of time was requested to allow post-construction jetting in Long Island Sound to partially bury the pipeline at water depths greater than 50 feet below mean low water until July 31. (Iroquois letter of January 22, 1991, pp.1-2)
4. The jetting of the pipeline has been recommended by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to eliminate a possible impediment to lobster migration which might occur during periods of depressed oxygen levels (hypoxia) in Long Island Sound. (Iroquois letter of January 22, 1991, attachment, pp. 1-2)
5. The burial of no less than the lower half of the pipeline would be necessary in waters deeper than 50 feet to minimize the creation of a benthic barrier to movement of lobsters across the sea floor of Long Island Sound. (NMFS letter of December 7, 1990, p.2)
6. Long Island Sound experiences hypoxia during mid to late summer and early fall. Bottom-dwelling organisms such as lobsters exposed to hypoxic conditions might seek to escape to waters with higher oxygen. The roughly east-west alignment of the pipeline in Long Island Sound might act as a barrier to such a migration. (NMFS letter of December 7, 1990, p.2)

7. The New York Public Service Commission has approved the extension of the Long Island Sound construction period to July 31, to allow jetting of the pipeline. (Iroquois letter of January 22, 1991)

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