

DOCKET NO. 134B - An amendment to the Iroquois Gas Transmission System L.P., Amended Certificate of Environmental 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

Opinion

On October 11, 1990, the Connecticut Siting Council issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Connecticut portion of the proposed Iroquois interstate natural gas pipeline from Sherman to Milford and Long Island Sound. On January 22, 1991, the Certificate Holder (Iroquois) submitted a request to the Council to amend the Council's Decision and Order in this docket to allow construction in Long Island Sound until July 31, 1991. The Council's Decision and Order had originally specified that construction in Long Island Sound take place between the period of October 1 and May 31. This two month extension of time would allow post-construction jetting in Long Island Sound to partially bury the pipeline at water depths greater than 50 feet below mean low water. The jetting of the pipeline was recommended by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to eliminate a potential barrier to lobster migration in Long Island Sound during episodes of low oxygen levels. During periods of hypoxia (low oxygen levels), lobsters and other bottom-dwelling sealife might move to portions of Long Island Sound offering greater oxygen levels.

Although the Council's original condition limiting Long Island Sound construction to the period between October 1 and May 31 was justified to minimize impacts to sealife and recreational use of Long Island Sound, this is superseded by the need to extend the schedule by two months to allow for the burial of the pipeline to protect lobster migration routes.

Based on the foregoing, we believe that an amendment of our Decision and Order dated October 11, 1990, is warranted to allow jetting of the pipeline in Long Island Sound until July 31, 1991.

RKE/cp

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