



**February 24, 2015**

**Re: Docket PF15-1-000**

On behalf of New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG), Mark Sperduto, Senior Vice President-Regulatory Affairs, respectfully submits this statement as part of the official scoping record.

I appreciate the opportunity to share how NJNG's participation as a potential shipper on the PennEast Pipeline, not only supports our ability to meet our statutory obligation, but enhances it. NJNG is responsible for providing safe, reliable and proper service in a manner that tends to conserve and preserve the quality of the environment.

What makes PennEast different from other recent proposed pipeline projects is that it is designed to serve the New Jersey and Pennsylvania marketplace, and not just pass through it.

As a local distribution company that serves over half a million homes and businesses in New Jersey's Monmouth, Ocean and parts of Burlington, Middlesex and Morris counties, it is our customers who will directly benefit from the natural gas delivered by PennEast.

This important project will provide access to supply that is literally right next door and, more importantly, one of the lowest natural gas supply price points in the country.

What this means to us is the opportunity to provide our customers with lower rates, lessen price volatility during times of high demand and improve reliability and resiliency with a diversified source of supply.

Additionally by connecting with four of the five interstate pipelines in our franchise area, it will significantly enhance our ability to meet demand throughout the disparate parts of our service territory.

But it's not just natural gas customers who stand to benefit.

As demand for gas-fired electric generation continues to grow, projects like PennEast can also help lower electric rates and improve reliability as it pertains to electric generation.

Lastly, this project supports America's push toward energy independence and a cleaner energy future.

By taking full advantage of our domestically produced, clean-burning natural gas, we can reduce our reliance on other countries that are less stable, as well as our carbon emissions.

And that is in all our best interest.

That is why New Jersey Natural Gas strongly supports the construction and operation of the PennEast Pipeline.

We believe this project is in the best interest of our customers, the communities we proudly serve and the future we all share.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to ensuring safe, reliable, affordable natural gas for New Jersey and the region.