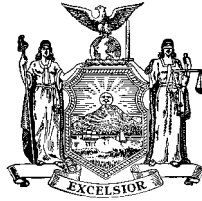


STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
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November 9, 2001

Greenpoint-Williamsburg Waterfront Task Force  
Mr. Victor M. Tafur  
Pace Energy Project

Via E-mail

Dear Mr. Tafur:

I am responding to your e-mail letter of November 6, 2001, concerning the public involvement program (PIP) of TransGas Energy Systems (TGE).

Staff is willing to meet separately with the Task Force before we meet with TGE, to further discuss the Task Force's concerns and/or after our meeting with TGE to discuss the results of that meeting. We could meet in Albany, or by teleconference if that is easier for you. We believe, however, that a meeting limited to Staff and TGE will allow a frank discussion and will be more effective at this time in improving TGE's PIP. We acknowledge the Task Force's concerns with the PIP.

The Task Force's request for a copy of TGE's responses to Staff's questions on its PIP is reasonable, and we expect that TGE will provide it to the Task Force and all parties that commented on the preliminary scoping statement. In addition, Staff plans to discuss further the Task Force's request for reports and the formation of a citizens' advisory group with TGE, and with other interested stakeholders.

You list several improvements to the PIP that you state must be satisfied before TGE proceeds with any outreach meetings. We agree that TGE's PIP needs to be improved, but we do not agree that its PIP activities should be stopped. As with any prospective applicant, if the notice and/or conduct of informational meetings is not effective in informing the public, additional meetings may be warranted.

Staff tentatively plans to hold a process forum on December 13<sup>th</sup>, to explain the Article X process and the opportunities for interested stakeholders to provide input and to become further involved. If Staff finds that TGE's PIP has not been effective, the process forum might be

postponed until such time as the public has received adequate information about the proposed project. Alternatively, there may be a need for a second process forum to be conducted.

Please call me if you would like to meet with Staff to further discuss your concerns.

Sincerely,

Peter Seidman  
Project Manager

cc: e-mail list