

February 22, 2002

VIA ELECTRONIC & REGULAR MAIL

Peter Seidman
Project Manager
New York State Department of Public Service
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

**Re: Case 01-F-1276 – Application by TransGas Energy Systems LLC -
Greenpoint/Williamsburg Waterfront Task Force**

Dear Mr. Seidman:

We want to thank you for your letter of February 15, 2002, regarding plans for the Williamsburg Town Hall Meeting and the Article X Process Forum currently scheduled for March 7th and 18th, respectively.

The Greenpoint/Williamsburg Waterfront Task Force (“Task Force”) appreciates Staff’s willingness to hold the March 18th Process Forum and is informing the community about this event. The Task Force is representing new additional groups in Williamsburg that plan to attend. Of course, the Task Force cannot guarantee attendance by the public or that those present will actively participate in that proceeding. Attendance at the meeting will also depend upon the Department’s mailings and other outreach efforts. Moreover, participation will depend on, among other things, the audience’s ability to understand the speakers. The Spanish translator would be helpful in this respect. The other suggestion made by the Task Force, which you do not mention in your letter, include organizing a shorter presentation by the agencies and allocating more time for questions and answers.

Regarding the TransGas Energy (“TGE”) Town Hall Meeting, the Task Force is unclear why you “... originally thought that [we] were to help facilitate arrangements for a suitable location.” Our recollection is that we only discussed the Article X Process Forum to be held in Williamsburg, not the Town Hall Meeting proposed by TGE. Indeed, TGE completely rejected the Task Force’s request for further public involvement program (“PIP”) activities in Williamsburg, which you fail to note in your recent letter. In light of TGE’s position, the Task Force believed that TGE planned no further PIP activities for Williamsburg. Notwithstanding, Diane Cooper recently reported that TGE was looking for a place to hold a Town Hall Meeting and asked whether we could recommend suitable locations for that event. Pursuant to her request, I agreed that a TGE representative could call to discuss this subject. I have never been contacted by TGE in

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this or any other regard. Aside for recommending a suitable location for a TGE Town Hall Meeting, the Task Force has not, and will not, participate in the organization of any public information meeting by TGE. It has never committed to facilitate arrangements for TGE's proposed meeting and will not do so in the future. You should note, however, that the Task Force has not, and will not, interfere in any way with TGE's efforts to hold a Town Hall Meeting in Williamsburg.

Your letter further states that assuming your expectations regarding the Williamsburg meetings are met, and that there is some reasonable opportunity for interested persons to comment on final stipulations before they are executed, it would be Staff's "broad expectation that there would not be any further concerns raised by the Task Force, either directly or indirectly, concerning the adequacy of the PIP effort in this phase of the case." In response, we note that the PIP obligation is multi-faceted and the applicant's performance to date on practically every aspect of community outreach has been sorely lacking. As a result, the Task Force does not waive any rights regarding the inadequacy of TGE's PIP and preserves any and all objections regarding the same. Moreover, we note that the PIP is an ongoing process and the Task Force has a right to be kept informed throughout this proceeding as to how the project is developing. Accordingly, despite TGE's failure to date in its PIP activities, we expect that Staff will keep us informed about TGE's pre-application throughout this process and ask for your continued assistance in this regard.

At this point, the Task Force intends to provide detailed comments on the stipulations after the Process Forum on March 18th. Based upon our review of both TGE's proposed stipulations, as well as Staff's comments, we are concerned that our comments have not been considered thus far in the stipulation process, raising concerns that our continued participation in the process may be futile. Notwithstanding, we do intend to continue to participate. In fact, we would like to meet with Department staff and representatives of other agencies on the Siting Board to discuss Staff's position regarding the stipulations and other technical aspects of the project, including land use, visual impact, interconnection and other matters raised by both the Staff and the Task Force in comments to the preliminary scoping statement.

Please advise whether you are interested in such a meeting as part of the stipulation process. We look forward to speaking with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Victor M. Tafur