

Scoping statement for Town of Fitzwilliam:

We have numerous concerns regarding water resources along or near the proposed pipeline:

- Scott Pond, Scott Brook, the aquifer on Town conservation land, numerous wetland areas, and four watersheds that begin in Fitzwilliam, numerous private water systems (wells).
- Historic homes—many of our historic homes may be impacted by the pipeline
- Rhododendron State Park---this is a valuable designated park, that extends into Richmond and Troy and all permissions must be obtained to alter it
- Little Monadnock—how will the steep slopes and woodland character be preserved during and after construction?
- Metacomet /Monadnock Trail (interstate trail), Wapack Trail and State Rail Trail (statewide trail system)—how will the proximity of the pipeline affect the use and character of these trails? How much of these trails will be affected?
- **Additional Questions:**
 - Why does the pipeline route cross under the Eversource ROW several times in Fitzwilliam? What is the plan to protect the pipe in that proximity to the electromagnetic field of the transmission lines?
 - How will the pipeline react to extreme weather conditions such as freezing and thawing?
 - Will individual wells be tested prior and post construction?
 - How will contaminated well water be remediated?
 - How will contaminated groundwater be addressed?
 - Will the delicate ecosystems of headwaters be impacted? How many? How severely?
 - How will ponds and brooks be affected by horizontal drilling? Have these impacts been studied and quantified?
 - Brook/Stream banks/riparian zones often contain wetlands that can be severely impacted via disturbance.
 - How will this disturbance be minimized and mitigated?
 - These banks need to be restored to pre-construction conditions
 - Specialists need to be used for this work, not general contractors, using the most current and site-specific methods.
 - How would the release of natural gas or product affect water ecosystems, including wetlands and groundwater?
 - How big of an area could be affected and how many people would be affected?
 - How would you compensate or mitigate for an accidental release?

- Will herbicides or drilling fluids be used at any point in the project? How will the use of herbicides and drilling fluid affect wetland areas and water resources? How will these affects be mitigated?

❖ Wetlands

- Construction activities can impact wetland functions, especially through disturbances to vegetation and soils. What will be done to mitigate these affects?
- Wildlife that are dependent on wetlands can also be negatively impacted through loss of habitats. What will be done to mitigate this impact?
- Permanent loss of wetlands will result when those lands are replaced with fill. What will be done to alleviate this impact?

❖ Aquifers:

- How would the aquifer on town owned land be impacted by construction? Have the impacts been studied and quantified?
- / would these impacts be minimized or mitigated?