

# Mid-Atlantic Express

4300 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22203

## OPEN LETTER

### **Re: Proposed Mid-Atlantic Express Natural Gas Pipeline**

In a recent Aegis article and published OPEN FORUM letter from County Executive David R. Craig, some points were made regarding our natural gas pipeline proposal that invited a response. Initially, our response came in the form of letters to the County Executive, the County Council, and potentially affected landowners. In order to set the record straight in a more public manner, we have highlighted the important points from those letters below. The complete text of the letters may be found on our website listed at the bottom of this advertisement.

*Dear Aegis Readers, County Executive Craig, and Harford County Homeowners:*

This letter is being written to help you better understand the details of the natural gas pipeline proposed by Mid-Atlantic Express.

**PIPELINE FACTS:** The pipeline was mistakenly called a liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline in both the Aegis article and County Executive Craig's letter. The Aegis article reported that the "liquefied natural gas pipeline . . . [would] transport the supercooled gas to processing centers." In fact, the proposed pipeline is simply a natural gas pipeline similar to the hundreds of miles of natural gas pipelines that already exist in Harford County. It will be used to deliver natural gas to homes, schools, businesses, and power plants just like it is delivered today. Yes, the gas will originate as LNG, but it will be transformed into ordinary natural gas before entering the pipeline. While larger than most of the existing pipelines in the County, it will be constructed and maintained to higher standards that include the most recent versions of all applicable safety regulations for materials, design, pipeline wall strength and thickness, worker qualifications, construction techniques, depth of cover, distance to other structures, installation of corrosion prevention and inspection devices, operational procedures, surveillance and damage prevention programs, public awareness programs, and all other issues related to natural gas pipeline safety and reliability.

**ECONOMIC BENEFITS:** The economic benefits we have consistently presented with respect to the proposed natural gas pipeline include the following:

- Total expected investment of \$250 million.
- Approximately 1-to-2 years of union construction labor (300,000+ union man-hours), selected from the union labor rolls.
- Indirect expenditures during the construction period to include, hotels, restaurants, small parts suppliers, fuel for the construction vehicles, etc., that would go to local businesses.
- Indirect expenditures during the operations period.
- Local property taxes based on the value of the facilities within Harford County.
- The potential to reduce both natural gas and electricity prices in Harford County (and the greater Mid-Atlantic region) by narrowing the gap between supply and demand in an area where the price of natural gas sets the price of electric power almost half of the hours each year.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES:** We have requested permission to enter onto the properties of landowners whose land we might cross for the primary purpose of gathering information so that potential impacts can be avoided, minimized, or appropriately mitigated. We are also seeking to learn about any concerns landowners may have regarding their property or the proposed pipeline project, and to begin to resolve those issues. Finally, by accessing lands at this early stage in the process, we will be better able to make plan changes, including re-routing, wherever those changes may be appropriate.

**SAFETY, TRAINING & EQUIPMENT:** We welcome discussion of how our proposed pipeline might fit in with existing safety and incident control plans. We would also work with the County to determine whether additional resources would be needed or beneficial in meeting the County's current overall emergency response and planning requirements. We will work with the County's fire and emergency responders to assess their interest in additional training. Mid-Atlantic Express is committed to compensate the County for its fair share of any added resources.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS:** We are currently in the process of preparing detailed reports on the potential impacts associated with our proposed project. Specific areas of review by federal, state, and local environmental regulators include the following:

- Water use and water quality.
- Impacts on fish, wildlife, and vegetation, including threatened or endangered species.
- Cultural resources, soils, land use, and recreation.
- Socioeconomics, including impacts (both positive and negative) on local resources.
- Aesthetics, air quality, and noise.
- Safety and reliability.

The environmental analyses will be similar to, and likely much more extensive than, those required when the County proposes construction of new water or sewer lines, roadways, or municipal or public structures. We ask that everyone keep an open mind to the project until the required analyses and review are completed.

**CONCERN IS SHARED & VITAL TO PROCESS:** We commend County Executive Craig for his concern during this election year for those he represents and the Aegis for continuing to follow this important project that can potentially reduce or moderate currently-high natural gas and electricity prices.

**MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE:** To help you in this process, we recommend that you consult the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission website at [www.ferc.gov/industries/gas](http://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas), or request from FERC their booklet, "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on My Land? What Do I Need to Know?" For further information on the pipeline project, refer to our website at [www.mid-atlanticexpress.com](http://www.mid-atlanticexpress.com).

On behalf of the entire Mid-Atlantic Express team,  
Sincerely,



Kent J. Morton  
Project Director