CAPE COD
COMMISSION

# Algonquin Pipeline Relocation, Bourne (CCC File No. 25012)
# Development of Regional Impact Review
# Subcommittee Hearing

**Draft Minutes | November 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

Virtual via Zoom

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## Hearing Open

Chair Robert Frangieh opened the virtual subcommittee hearing on the Algonquin Pipeline Relocation Project (CCC File No. 25012) by reading the opening announcements and hearing notice. He stated that the hearing was being held virtually through Zoom, with all members participating remotely, pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, as amended by Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025. He also noted that the hearing was being recorded for the purpose of preparing minutes and asked anyone else recording to identify themselves. No other person identified themselves as recording.

## Roll Call/Attendance

Jeffrey Ribeiro, Regulatory Planner, called the roll. Five voting members and one alternate were present. All participated remotely via Zoom.

- Robert Frangieh (Bourne), Chair — Present
- Catherine Ledec (Barnstable) — Present
- David Mead-Fox (Wellfleet) — Present
- Dennis Prebensen (Yarmouth) — Present
- Thomas Wilson (Chatham) — Present
- Anne McManus (Sandwich), Alternate — Present

## Summary of Actions Taken/Votes at Meeting

- The Subcommittee approved the October 28, 2026 meeting minutes by roll-call vote, 5–0.

- The Subcommittee voted to recommend that the project is consistent with the Regional Policy Plan, applicable municipal development bylaws, the Town of Bourne's Commission-certified Local Comprehensive Plan, and the Cape Cod Commission Act, and that probable project benefits outweigh probable project detriments; approved by roll-call vote, 5–0.

- The Subcommittee directed staff to prepare a draft decision for further review and potential recommendation to the full Cape Cod Commission; approved by roll-call vote, 5–0.

• The Subcommittee continued the public hearing on the Project to the regularly scheduled Cape Cod Commission meeting on November 19, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., in a hybrid format; approved by roll-call vote, 5–0.

## Approval of Minutes

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the October 28, 2026 hearing. David Mead-Fox made the motion, and Dennis Prebensen seconded it. On roll call, Robert Frangieh, Catherine Ledec, David Mead-Fox, Dennis Prebensen, and Thomas Wilson each voted "yes." The motion carried, 5–0.

## Staff Presentation

Using a slide presentation, Jordan Velozo, Chief Regulatory Officer, provided an overview of the federal review process and the significance of FERC's October 29, 2026 certificate. She explained that FERC reviewed the Project under the Natural Gas Act and NEPA, including its potential environmental impacts and proposed mitigation, before authorizing construction and operation of the pipeline facilities. The certificate incorporates requirements for environmental mitigation, construction, monitoring, restoration, and compliance. She noted that FERC determined the Project would maintain the existing contracted level of service to National Grid without increasing pipeline capacity.

Ms. Velozo explained that the Commission may continue its DRI review, including evaluating consistency with the Regional Policy Plan, municipal bylaws, the Commission-certified Local Comprehensive Plan, and probable project benefits and detriments. However, the Commission may not use its review to reconsider or override FERC's determinations, alter the federally approved project, restrict capacity, or impose conditions that conflict with the certificate or unreasonably delay construction or operation.

Using a slide presentation, Jeffrey Ribeiro, Regulatory Planner, summarized the DRI staff report and project configuration. He reviewed the standards for DRI approval including applicable RPP issue areas, municipal development bylaws, the Commission-certified Local Comprehensive Plan, and the Cape Cod Commission Act.

Mr. Ribeiro discussed the project's consistency with each standard of review for DRIs. He discussed each applicable, material, and regionally significant goal and objective of the RPP. He said that the project would use Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) approximately 87 feet below the canal. Staff identified no permanent wetland alterations. He said approximately 44 acres of tree clearing were anticipated with approximately 7.16 acres of permanent disturbance in the Natural Areas place type, which would require a 21.48-acre open-space offset. Mr. Ribeiro said the Applicant was pursuing a 60-acre parcel at Joint Base Cape Cod for permanent protection, but the parcel had not yet been secured. A separate Article 97 land swap had been accepted by the Town and approved by the Legislature.

Mr. Ribeiro also summarized staff's review of Wildlife and Plant Habitat, Water Resources, Coastal Resiliency, Community Design, and Cultural Resources. When reviewing consistency with the Climate Change goal, he said the carbon analysis submitted as part of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act review estimated a net impact of approximately 7,755 metric tons of $CO_2$ equivalent from vegetation clearing and soil disturbance, while protection of 60 acres of forest was estimated to retain approximately 11,668 metric tons over the same period. Reviewing transportation, he said FERC requires traffic-planning coordination with federal and state agencies and specifically with the Town of Bourne.

Mr. Ribeiro noted that the relevant local permits were the Bourne Conservation Commission's Order of Conditions, already issued, and building permits for structures. He recommended that the subcommittee discuss consistency with the standards for DRI approval, direct staff to prepare a draft decision, and continue the hearing to the November 19 full Commission meeting.

## Applicant Comments

Rick Paquette, SWCA Environmental Consultants, spoke on behalf of Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC. He described the issuance of the FERC certificate as a "major milestone" for the project, stating that it established the project's authorization and environmental review requirements and helped answer questions raised at the prior hearing, including questions about capacity.

## Subcommittee Questions and Discussion

David Mead-Fox asked about the status of the proposed 60-acre open-space parcel. Mr. Paquette said negotiations with the landowner were ongoing and no alternate parcel had been identified.

Ms. Ledec asked about the acreage and resource impacts of Article 97 land affected by the Project. Mr. Paquette did not have the acreage breakdown available but identified affected Town of Bourne, Buzzards Bay Water District, and Joint Base Cape Cod properties, including a small isolated wetland that would be restored.

Ms. Ledec asked about quantifying the loss of carbon storage associated with tree clearing. She said the loss of tree carbon storage was permanent unless replaced through planting and expressed the view that the landscaping plan's tree planting was insufficient. Mr. Ribeiro referenced the MEPA carbon analysis that quantified the loss of carbon sequestration. He said that the state and Regional Policy Plan consider protection of currently unprotected trees through open-space protection to be a benefit.

Ms. Ledec asked what review had been completed by the Town of Bourne beyond wetlands review. Mr. Ribeiro confirmed that the Town's identified local permits were the wetlands Order of Conditions and building permits; he also noted the Town's acceptance of the Article 97 replacement-land swap.

Ms. Ledec then asked about restoration of wetland and vernal-pool areas, including whether excavated wetland soils would be segregated and returned to the site rather than replaced with imported clean fill, and whether imported soils would require specific approval. Mr. Ribeiro referred to the FERC certificate's requirement to follow FERC's Wetland and Water Body Construction and Mitigation Procedures, along with the Massachusetts water-quality certificate and NHESP requirements. In response to questions about wetland soils, Mr. Paquette described separating and stockpiling topsoil and subsoil, replacing them in sequence after trenching, and using erosion controls, restoration monitoring, and invasive-species prevention measures.

Mr. Mead-Fox asked about contingencies for unforeseen circumstances. Mr. Paquette said weather would be managed through monitoring and scheduling and that FERC reviewed the applicant's financial ability. Mr. Granke said the drilling contractor would use established equipment and that replacement parts were readily available.

Mr. Wilson asked when the existing pipeline attached to the Bourne Bridge would be disconnected. Mr. Granke said the pipeline beneath the bridges would remain until the bridge contractors deconstructed the bridges.

Chair Frangieh asked how unexpected environmental conditions, including contaminated material, would be addressed. Mr. Paquette described the Applicant's procedures and coordination with MassDEP. Mr. Granke said Algonquin would retain a full-time environmental inspector during construction.

Ms. McManus asked about monitoring during and after construction. Mr. Paquette said an inspector would oversee construction and restoration and report to FERC. Mr. Colabella added that wetland restoration monitoring would continue for three years and that MESA requirements were expected to require at least five years of upland restoration monitoring.

Mr. Prebensen asked about the construction schedule and why a pipeline segment near Route 25 would be abandoned in place. Mr. Paquette said construction was expected to begin in January 2027, continue into 2028, and reach in-service status by August 2028. Mr. Paquette and Mr. Granke said the segment would remain in place to avoid clearing a tree barrier behind nearby homes; the pipe would be filled with grout to stabilize it.

Mr. Mead-Fox and Ms. Ledec asked about agency oversight and access to monitoring reports. Mr. Paquette said FERC would receive monitoring reports and periodically conduct site visits. Mr. Colabella said the certificate requires biweekly project-status and environmental reports after notice to proceed, which would be publicly available on the FERC docket. Mr. Ribeiro said the Commission retained inspection rights, anticipated requiring a certificate of completion, and could discuss receiving relevant monitoring reports.

Mr. Mead-Fox also asked how service would transition to the new facilities. Mr. Granke described staged outages and tie-ins during 2027 and 2028. Existing facilities would continue supplying gas until the new metering and regulating stations and National Grid connections were ready. Mr. Paquette said the applicant typically uses foam pigs to remove residual liquids from its pipelines and would confirm the procedure for National Grid's lines with National Grid.

## Public Comments

The Chair invited public officials to speak in their official capacities; no officials came forward. The Chair then opened general public comment and advised speakers they had three minutes each.

Stephen Buckley, Chatham resident, asked the Commission to distinguish FERC-authorized throughput from the pipeline's physical or design capacity. He urged the subcommittee to address the issue, warning that avoiding it could make the process seem "evasive and dismissive of simple, fundamental questions."

Chris Powicki, Brewster resident, speaking for the Sierra Club's Cape Cod and Islands Group, said the larger diameter and higher operating pressure of the new segments could enable future increases in gas delivery, potentially conflicting with regional and state climate goals. He urged the Commission to consider a condition addressing future expansion.

Eva Morgan, speaking for the Sierra Club of Massachusetts, said the organization did not oppose relocation needed for bridge replacement but was concerned about future increases in gas availability and emissions. She discussed potential additional National Grid purchases, DPU approval of gas supply contracts, and the relationship between pipeline pressure and potential throughput. She urged the Commission to consider conditions or mitigation addressing possible future gas availability and emissions. She noted that the Sierra Club had submitted additional written comments earlier in the week.

## Further Subcommittee Discussion

Ms. Ledec suggested a memorandum of understanding with Joint Base Cape Cod to coordinate natural-resource monitoring. Mr. Paquette said the applicant had been coordinating with Joint Base natural-resources staff and NHESP for nearly two years and would continue during construction and restoration.

Ms. Ledec asked staff to address whether the Commission could impose a condition limiting future pipeline capacity increases. Ms. Velozo said the subcommittee could ask questions about FERC-authorized capacity as they related to DRI standards, but the Commission had no independent authority to set or limit the operating capacity of an interstate pipeline.

Mr. Wilson cited pages 16–17 of the FERC certificate, which state that the Project is a relocation to maintain existing service for National Grid and would not create additional capacity. He said this

addressed many of the questions raised at the prior hearing and made him more comfortable with the project. He proposed moving to discussion of project benefits and detriments.

The Chair reviewed potential benefits identified by staff: relocating facilities from the bridges to underground pipelines to reduce the risk of service interruptions, and using existing rights-of-way and HDD to reduce forest impacts. Potential detriments included approximately 43.6 acres of forest clearing and temporary construction-related traffic impacts.

Mr. Wilson suggested adding that HDD beneath the canal would avoid dredging and direct disturbance of canal sediments. He also suggested that the project would avoid noise impacts to wildlife and preserve public vistas along the canal, noting that the applicant would screen the visible Sagamore M&R station with vegetation.

Ms. Ledec suggested that the HDD crossing would avoid disturbance to vessel traffic on the canal. She also raised the possibility that permanently protecting the proposed open-space parcel could provide Article 97 protection exceeding the acreage of Article 97 land affected by the project. Mr. Ribeiro said staff expected the decision to require at least the RPP open-space offset to be permanently protected. Because the proposed 60-acre parcel had not yet been secured, staff recommended not treating the potential excess acreage as a project benefit at that time.

Chair Frangieh suggested that replacing aging infrastructure with modern pipeline materials and construction standards could reduce the risk of leaks, corrosion, and equipment failures. Mr. Wilson added that the upgrades could improve reliability and safety. Mr. Ribeiro said staff would review the record to ensure there was adequate evidence to support including reduced risk of leaks and equipment failures as a benefit.

Ms. McManus suggested that temporary traffic congestion during construction could be a project detriment. The Chair agreed that some temporary traffic impacts were likely, although the prior discussion had suggested they would be limited because much of the work would occur underground. Mr. Ribeiro said staff would work on appropriate wording for the draft decision.

## Subcommittee Actions

The Chair asked for a motion to recommend that “the project is consistent with the Regional Policy Plan, municipal Development Bylaws, the Town of Bourne’s Commission Certified Local Comprehensive Plan, and the Cape Cod Commission Act, and that the probable project benefit is greater than the probable project detriment.” Thomas Wilson moved the motion. Dennis Prebensen seconded it. On roll call, Robert Frangieh, Catherine Ledec, David Mead-Fox, Dennis Prebensen, and Thomas Wilson each voted “yes.” The motion carried, 5–0.

Thomas Wilson moved to direct staff to prepare a draft decision for further review and potential recommendation to the full Cape Cod Commission. Chair Robert Frangieh seconded the motion. On

roll call, Robert Frangieh, Catherine Ledec, David Mead-Fox, Dennis Prebensen, and Thomas Wilson each voted "yes." The motion carried, 5–0.

Staff advised that a separate public meeting by Zoom would be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., to review the draft decision.

The Chair asked for a motion to continue the public hearing to the regularly scheduled Cape Cod Commission meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., in a hybrid format, both via Zoom and in person in the Mary Pat Flynn Room at the Barnstable County Complex, 3195 Main Street, Barnstable, Massachusetts. Thomas Wilson moved the motion, and Chair Robert Frangieh seconded it. On roll call, Robert Frangieh, Catherine Ledec, David Mead-Fox, Dennis Prebensen, and Thomas Wilson each voted "yes." The motion carried, 5–0.

## List of Materials Used/Presented

- Subcommittee Hearing Notice and Agenda for November 12, 2026.
- Presentation Slides for November 12, 2026
- Cape Cod Commission DRI staff report for Algonquin Pipeline Relocation Project
- FERC Certificate for the Algonquin Pipeline Relocation Project, issued October 29, 2026