

RESOLUTION
of the
BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE
Resolution No. 2014-

Council Meeting Date:

Date Adopted:

TITLE: RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE OPPOSING THE PILGRIM PIPELINE

Councilperson _____ submitted the following resolution, which was duly seconded by Councilperson _____.

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Pipeline Company (“Pilgrim”) is proposing to build a new bi-directional pipeline through New Providence that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey.

WHEREAS, In February the *Wall Street Journal* compared oil from 86 locations around the world and found Bakken crude oil to be the most explosive.¹ Bringing this fuel into our community endangers our families, property, and environment.

WHEREAS, The Pilgrim pipeline raises significant safety concerns for New Providence, as well as potential harm to municipal and county infrastructure, and likely negative impact upon future development in the community;

WHEREAS, the Borough Council is concerned about the hazard the project may create due to the nature and volume of the highly flammable oil flowing through the pipeline, and its proposed route, which crosses through residential neighborhoods. These communities will be in the “impact radius” should an explosion and or spill occur;

WHEREAS, According to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) only has 135 inspectors to oversee 2.6 million miles of pipeline, and only a fifth of that pipeline system has been inspected by PHMSA or its state partners since 2006.

WHEREAS, the potential for a pipeline explosion could harm hundreds of people, we express grave concerns about this project negatively affecting the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens;

WHEREAS, the Borough Council’s responsibility is to provide a safe environment for its residents, and this pipeline raises serious safety concerns as described above.

WHEREAS, the pipeline offers no direct benefits to the residents of New Providence, the safety concerns it would create cannot be justified;

WHEREAS, the proposed project may result in a loss of tax revenue for New Providence based on right-of-way agreements with Pilgrim Pipeline and a decline in the property values of homes along and adjacent to the new pipeline and surrounding neighborhoods as a direct result of the project;

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves protection of New Providence's water supplies and water and other natural resources for generations to come;

WHEREAS, protection of New Providence's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the New Providence Borough Council in the County of Union, the following recitals are incorporated as of December 15, 2014;

1. The Council opposes the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline.
2. The Council calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, proposal, surveying, or construction of the Pilgrim pipeline through New Providence.
3. Because this project will traverse and negatively impact numerous significant natural areas and the resources of the municipality and the Highlands region, the Borough Council requests a full environmental review, including a Highlands Act review, be conducted by the DEP to assess the myriad environmental consequences of the project.
4. The Borough Council seeks the cooperation of other similarly located and affected townships, asking that all nearby affected townships adopt a similar resolution.
5. The Borough Council adopts, and call upon similarly situated municipalities to adopt a resolution authorizing each Township to join together to enter their appearance in any proceeding before the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and any other regulatory authority, so that by their strength of numbers they may successfully oppose the Pilgrim Pipeline project and have the ability to cause the relocation or termination of the project so as to prevent environmental degradation and to protect the public health and safety.
6. The Council directs the municipal clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the following:
 1. NJ Governor Chis Christie
 2. State Senator Tom Kean Jr.
 3. State Assemblyman Jon Bramnick
 4. State Assemblywoman Nancy Muñoz
 5. New Jersey Highlands Executive Director Margaret Nordstrom and Councilmembers
 6. Food and Water Watch, 100 Bayard Street, Suite 310, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
 7. The Sierra Club – New Jersey Chapter, 145 W. Hanover Street, Trenton NJ 08618
 8. Union County Freeholders