

September 21, 2022

Testimony delivered in person at National Grid's hearing on their proposed Liquified Natural Gas expansion at the Cooper Park houses.

Good afternoon,

My name is Lor Malotra-Gaudet, and I lead the communications and advocacy work for Newtown Creek Alliance. NCA has worked since 2002 to restore, reveal, and revitalize Newtown Creek - a waterbody that has suffered from over 150 years of environmental degradation stemming from industrialization. Designated a federal Superfund site in 2010, we are still awaiting a Record of Decision and comprehensive cleanup of the Creek's toxic sediments and numerous pollution sources.

We stand in strong opposition to this project, and the construction of any new oil and gas infrastructure, for many of the same reasons you've already heard at this hearing and the dozens of others that have been held on this project. We are in the midst of a climate emergency and have a moral obligation to not invest further in new fossil fuel infrastructure that directly impacts our community and the state of the planet.

In addition to the very real climate issues stemming from this project, I would like to represent the Creek today, and advocate for the remediation of the National Grid site to be prioritized.

Current Contamination and Superfund Legacy Should be Prioritized:

The previous operations at the National Grid facility have left significant amounts of contamination in both the local soils and waters. According to DEC¹, the site is contaminated by the following chemicals of concern:

- + Light hydrocarbons: Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylene (BTEX)
- + Semivolatile Organics: Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAHs)
- + Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) in Groundwater
- + Manufactured Gas Plant Waste in the form of Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (NAPL) below the groundwater table

Prior to 2012, there have been 11 separate environmental investigations at the site, relating to potential underground plumes, groundwater contamination, and subsurface and surface soil contamination from previous operations and demolition of structures. The company suspended use of a baseball field following a 2010 investigation of the area and Interim Remedial Measures were overseen by DEC in 2005, 2006, and 2007.² As of 2022, National Grid is still reviewing draft versions of a remedial investigation. The company is one of the original Potentially Responsible Parties to the EPA-led Superfund investigation of Newtown Creek, wherein data collected shows the sediments off the shore of the facility (the Turning Basin area of Newtown Creek) to be

¹ https://newtowncreekcag.files.wordpress.com/2020/07/brief.hw_241117.2020-07-15.uplands-for-the-cag.pdf

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<http://newtowncreek.info/docs2/2%20Remedial%20Investigation/Remedial%20investigation%20Support%20Documents/Data%20Applicability%20Report/Appendix%20C/National%20Grid%20Greenpoint%20Energy%20Center%202005-2012%20DRAFT.pdf>

some of the most contaminated in the entire Superfund site for PAHs.³ Remnants of Coal Tar that were processed at this facility still bubble up to the surface waters of the Turning Basin during low tide events, presenting immediate health risks to humans and wildlife alike, and it is unclear how contamination may be currently migrating from the facility into the waterway.

In short, this facility is a major environmental burden for the community. There is no comprehensive cleanup plan in place yet for the facility itself, or the adjacent waterway that previous operations have poisoned. We strongly believe that the highest priority for this facility, specifically in regards to the responsibilities of the DEC, is to cleanup and mitigate current environmental hazards. Allowing this long-standing pollution to remain in place while considering a permit to expand operations is an environmental injustice that we oppose.

³ https://newtowncreekcag.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/newtown-2_20_18_mtg_-presentation_draft_rev-6.pdf