

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 25, 2016

The Honorable Norman Bay
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Bay,

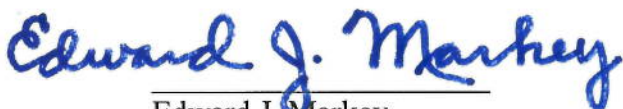
We write regarding your July 19, 2016 response to our letter concerning Spectra Energy's Atlantic Bridge Project and a possible conflict of interest that may exist with a contractor used to prepare the Environmental Assessment of the project, Natural Resource Group (NRG).

Your response indicated that no conflict of interest was identified by FERC in this instance, although you note that "there have been eight disqualifying conflicts in the past fifteen months alone" related to other projects.

Therefore, we ask that you respond to the following questions in writing:

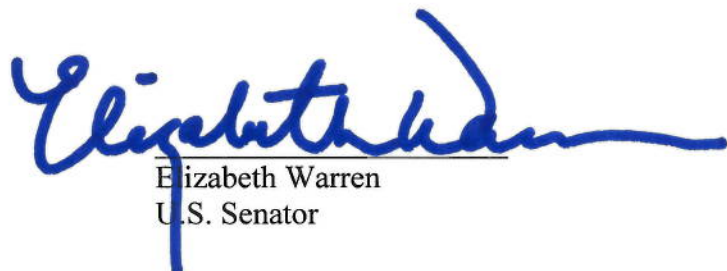
1. Pursuant to the requirements of the FERC Handbook for Using Third-Party Contractors to Prepare Environmental Documents that you identified, potential candidates to prepare environmental documents and the applicant company itself must both disclose any potential conflicts of interest. Did Spectra or NRG disclose any potential conflicts of interest to FERC? If not, did FERC conduct an independent review to determine whether claims that no conflict of interest exist were valid in this instance?
2. Does FERC typically conduct such an independent review of the information submitted regarding potential conflicts? If not, why not?
3. For the eight disqualifying conflicts of interest over the last 15 months identified in your July 19, 2016 response, were all of those disqualifications made based on disclosed conflicts of interest by either potential third-party candidates or applicant companies themselves? If not, please provide information on how those conflicts of interest were discovered.
4. For the eight disqualifying conflicts of interest over the last 15 months, how many were related to potential financial conflicts of interest? Please provide a list of the candidate and applicant companies involved in these eight disqualifying instances and the reasons companies were disqualified.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator