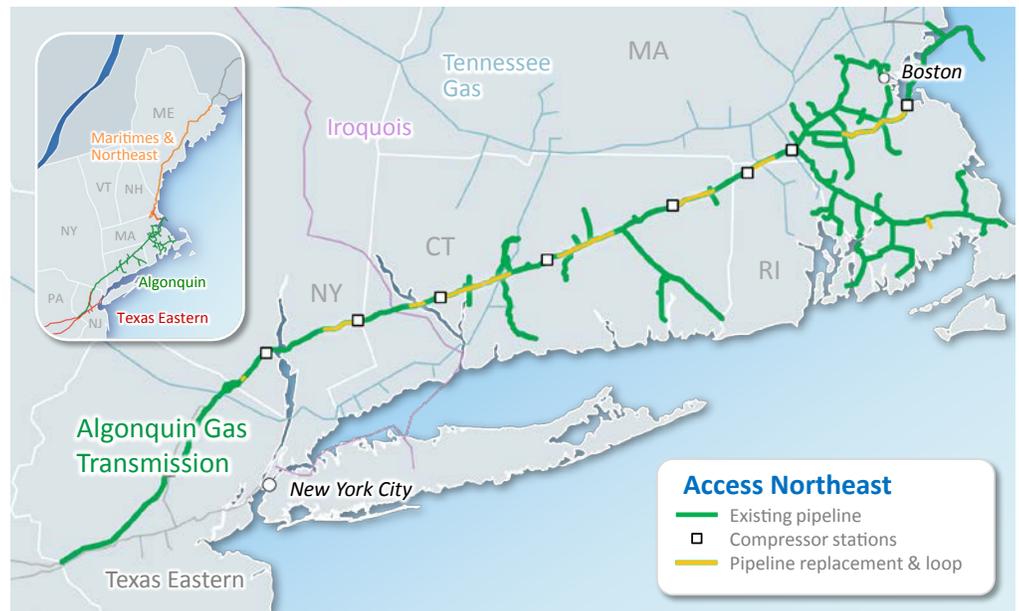


Keeping the lights on in New England – Access Northeast provides a critical component necessary for any natural gas infrastructure solution with direct connections to 70% of ISO-NE's largest and most flexible power plants. Access Northeast will provide a customized, cost-effective and environmentally responsible solution for New England's energy needs.

Access Northeast will ensure energy reliability, economic competitiveness and quality of life for New England.

With Access Northeast in service, New Englanders could save \$1 billion annually in energy costs during normal winter weather. They could have saved \$2.5 billion during the harsh 2013 – 2014 winter.



The Problem

Lack of sufficient natural gas infrastructure directly connected to power plants is driving New England's energy prices higher, limiting economic competitiveness and growth, and straining energy infrastructure systems to the point where public safety and security are threatened during winter peak energy demand times. Unfortunately, New England does not realize all the savings and reliability benefits of the tremendous natural gas supplies in neighboring states and New England energy prices are consistently higher than the rest of the continental U.S. The price of inaction is billions of dollars out of consumers' pockets and the risk of electricity and heat not being available when people need them most.

The Solution

Access Northeast – being developed by Eversource Energy, National Grid and Spectra Energy – is designed to maximize direct pipeline interconnects to over 70 percent of ISO-NE's power plants and advance a customized solution to New England's energy challenge.

The project will upgrade existing facilities on the Algonquin pipeline system and market area storage assets in New England to deliver, on peak days, up to 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas. More than 90 percent of the solution will utilize existing pipeline and utility corridors and natural gas infrastructure, thus minimizing environmental and community effects.

Public Participation

Access Northeast will work with stakeholders to develop a plan and route that balances the number of landowners affected, impact to the environment, constructability requirements and safety regulations, while meeting customer needs, enhancing regional electric reliability and creating economic development opportunities for communities.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will be the lead permitting agency for Access Northeast. The FERC process and the permitting processes of other agencies will allow interested parties ample opportunities to express their views on the project.

Acushnet LNG Storage Facility

Eversource Energy has a forty-plus year history as a part of the Acushnet community, providing natural gas and electricity to area homes and businesses and storing critically needed fuel at our liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility.

The Access Northeast Project will upgrade existing LNG storage at the Eversource property in Acushnet. The project includes the construction of two new LNG storage tanks, liquefaction and vaporization facilities. The 250-acre tract currently houses two LNG storage tanks with total storage capacity of 0.5 Bcf (billion cubic feet) on a 15-acre parcel. The new facility will be constructed on an adjacent parcel within the larger tract. LNG is an important resource in the winter season because stored LNG may be readily converted into vaporized natural gas and delivered into the existing pipeline system.

This component of the project also includes an extension of the Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC (Algonquin) interstate pipeline to the Eversource property. The pipeline, which is owned and operated by Algonquin, runs within three miles of Eversource's Acushnet property.

Local and Regional Benefits

This project will help Acushnet and other local communities in many ways. Acushnet will receive property tax revenues of an estimated \$10 million to \$12.5 million annually, and 25 permanent jobs will be created when the new facility is operating. Additionally, approximately 250 construction workers will be needed at the Acushnet site, with an additional 2,100 construction jobs expected to be created throughout the region for LNG storage and pipeline construction.

LNG is widely recognized as an environmentally friendly fuel source. Unlike other fossil fuels, natural gas is non-carcinogenic and non-toxic. When liquefied, impurities such as sulfur, carbon dioxide, mercury and water are removed from natural gas and safely disposed of. This creates a product that is clean burning and safe for the environment. Compared to the average air emissions from coal-fired generation, natural gas produces half as much carbon dioxide, less than a third as much nitrogen oxides, and one percent as much sulfur oxides at the power plant.

LNG Safety

Eversource has an excellent, 40+ year safety record of operating and maintaining LNG storage facilities in Acushnet and Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and in Waterbury, Connecticut. Eversource has decades of experience working closely with local communities on operations and safety plans, regularly hosting training exercises for local officials at our facilities across New England.

The Acushnet facility will have state-of-the-art tanks; control systems; monitoring and detection systems; and enhanced plant security to help maintain safety, security and reliability. The LNG industry's highest priority has been safety and security, which is reflected in the industry's enviable safety record. **LNG is not stored under pressure and is not explosive.**

The facility itself will be comprised of two 3.4 Bcf, state-of-the-art tanks featuring a full containment, double hull, "storage tank within a storage tank" design. The outside diameter of each outer containment tank would be approximately 270 feet at the base; the height of each tank would be 170 feet.

Community Outreach

Eversource is committed to open, transparent communications about all phases of the Acushnet LNG project. The company will be proactively reaching out to community leaders, abutters, area residents and other stakeholders to keep them informed about the project. The company will also host public open houses to share details about the project and to answer questions. The permitting process is expected to take approximately two years. During that time federal, state and local officials will thoroughly review every aspect of the project with an open public process.