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NEWS RELEASE

Whitman Applauds FERC Decision on Pipeline

NJ Gov. Christie Whitman applauded the decision by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to deny the construction of the proposed Transco Pipeline unless the developer proves that there is a public need and demand for the natural gas that would run through approximately 90 miles of New Jersey lands as well as hundreds of miles through neighboring states.

"I am pleased that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) voted not to approve construction of the Transco pipeline unless a demand for the project is demonstrated. Clearly a majority of the Commission saw the wisdom of our arguments and was responsive to the concerns of Garden State residents," the Governor said.

"Approving this project without demonstrating sufficient public need or support would be an affront to how hard we have worked to make New Jersey a better place to live, work and raise a family," Gov. Whitman said.

"I have said from the very first days that nothing in the application for this project demonstrates the kind of compelling public need that would justify developing open space or placing the pipeline so close to homes and schools. Obviously, the FERC members agree," she said.

"The FERC's action today was a major initial victory for public safety, for the environment and for all of New Jersey," she said.

A copy of the FERC news release on today's action is attached.