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**NYPIRG STATEMENT ON GOV. HOCHUL'S APPROVAL OF FRACKED GAS
WILLIAMS "NESE" PIPELINE**

(New York, N.Y.) Today, Governor Hochul and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) approved Williams Company's request for the Northeast Supply Enhancement "NESE" Pipeline's application for a New York state clean water quality permit. This approval comes after three previous rejections for the same permit application due to failing to comply with New York's clean water standards. This approval gives Williams the greenlight to construct a new, 37-mile long, gas pipeline from Pennsylvania, through New Jersey, and ending offshore of the Rockaway peninsula in Queens.

This decision will cost New Yorkers an anticipated increase of \$3.2 billion dollars in utility bills to pay for the construction of this project. Additionally, construction of this pipeline will contribute to an increase in healthcare costs due to the harmful effects of pollution on our communities as well as an increase to climate mitigation costs. This decision is detrimental to both the public health and the economic welfare of New Yorkers.

The following statement is attributable to Eric Wood, Senior Environmental Program Coordinator for NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group.

"Governor Hochul should know that New Yorkers can't afford the approval of more fracked gas pipelines like Williams' NESE project. We can't afford it in our utility bills, we can't afford it in more climate pollution, and we can't afford more polluted water. While the DEC has previously rejected this proposal multiple times, with this decision, New York is now moving backwards to do the bidding of the fossil fuel industry and its promoters in the White House – at the expense of the public."

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