

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Constitution Pipeline Company LLC

Docket Nos. CP13-499-006  
CP18-5-004

**Motion to Hold The Proceeding in Abeyance and Request For Evidentiary  
Hearing To Investigate the *Quid Pro Quo* Deal Involving Constitution  
Pipeline by the President of the United States**

We ask the Commission grant our motion, per 18 CFR § 385.212.

President Donald J. Trump is not one for subtlety. On June 9, 2026, President Trump gave remarks on the tarmac of JFK Airport after game 3 of the National Basketball Association Finals between the New York Knickerbockers and the San Antonio Spurs, where he explicitly confirmed the “deal” he had where the Governor of New York pledged to support two natural gas pipelines—including Constitution—in exchange for the President allowing offshore wind in New York, had been breached by the Governor:

*We're getting held up by the Governor of New York. She made a deal with us to allow us to build it [Constitution pipeline]. And she's holding it up . . . this is a pipeline that goes very substantially underground that nobody's going to see . . . we have a Governor that just doesn't allow it. This has gone on for a long time, and, we made a deal with her, and she broke the deal. We made a deal we were going to give her a couple of windmills someplace, because she likes windmills, which is a big mistake. We made the deal, so I guess we're withdrawing those windmills. But [in the deal] she gave us two [natural gas pipelines], one going out to Long Island, which is under construction [Northeast Supply Enhancement], and one going to New England [Constitution] . . . So we made a deal with the Governor, and she broke the deal.<sup>1</sup>*

President Trump repeated the claim two days later in remarks at the White House in response to the question, “Will you put a stop to that [offshore wind], now that [New York Governor] Kathy Hochul broke her deal about [supporting] the [Constitution] pipeline?” President Trump responded: “And she did break her deal . . . and I’m for it [stopping offshore wind], she broke her deal by stopping [the Constitution] pipeline. She wanted to stop a pipeline.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://youtu.be/vDQbUVxdU44?t=615>

<sup>2</sup> [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PD0OYCpqzI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PD0OYCpqzI)

Attached as Exhibit A is a *Politico* article which states that the White House confirms President Trump entered into a deal with the Governor of New York to allow offshore wind in the state in exchange for her pledge to support two Williams Cos. pipelines, the Northeast Supply Enhancement and Constitution.<sup>3</sup> The fact that the New York Governor denies a deal is irrelevant: the President of the United States personally declared and confirmed that such a deal was made, and the Commission is bound by policy and law to investigate.<sup>4</sup>

Eight days later, the President carried out his June 9 pledge “so I guess we're withdrawing those windmills”. His Department of Interior announced a settlement agreement where the American taxpayer will pay Invenergy \$765 million to not develop three offshore wind projects, of which the company’s 83,976 acre New York Bight lease was the largest.<sup>5</sup>

This is the third settlement agreement since Constitution’s FERC petition where the Trump Administration has targeted New York offshore wind projects for termination. First was on March 23, 2026, when Trump’s settlement agreement forced taxpayers to pay TotalEnergies \$928 million to abandon two wind leases, including its offshore New York tract.<sup>6</sup> This was followed by the April 27 settlement agreement that paid BlackRock, EDP Renewables and ENGIE to vacate their Bluepoint Wind project off the coast of New York.<sup>7</sup>

The termination of Invenergy’s offshore is likely just the first of future actions to stop pending or under construction offshore wind projects through these coercive settlement agreements: RWE holds a \$1.1 billion lease for its Community Offshore Wind project off the coast of New York<sup>8</sup>; EDF’s \$780 million offshore lease for its New York Atlantic Shores project<sup>9</sup>; and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners’ \$285 million lease

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<sup>3</sup> Also available online: [www.politico.com/news/2026/06/09/trump-slams-hochul-on-pipeline-deal-00954871](http://www.politico.com/news/2026/06/09/trump-slams-hochul-on-pipeline-deal-00954871)

<sup>4</sup> See our January 29 *Protest* in this proceeding, [https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession\\_number=20260129-5226](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20260129-5226)

<sup>5</sup> [www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-announces-new-energy-agreement-strengthen-american-energy-security-and-lower](http://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-announces-new-energy-agreement-strengthen-american-energy-security-and-lower)

<sup>6</sup> [www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-and-totalenergies-agree-end-offshore-wind-projects-lowering-costs-american](http://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-and-totalenergies-agree-end-offshore-wind-projects-lowering-costs-american)

<sup>7</sup> [www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-announces-two-historic-agreements-promote-affordable-reliable-energy](http://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-announces-two-historic-agreements-promote-affordable-reliable-energy)

<sup>8</sup> [www.communityoffshorewind.com](http://www.communityoffshorewind.com)

<sup>9</sup> <https://atlanticshoreswind.com>

for its wind project offshore of New York<sup>10</sup> are all probable targets for the President's retribution for Governor Hochul's refusal to fast-track approval of the Constitution Pipeline.

The Commission breezily dismissed our charge that this *quid pro quo* arraignment violates the public interest in the sperate proceeding involving Williams' Northeast Supply Enhancement pipeline:

*Public Citizen accuses Transco's petition of being the result of political pressure, and that, on that basis, a certificate of public convenience and necessity cannot be granted. Public Citizen speculates that there was a quid pro quo involving stopping attacks on New York offshore wind projects and congestion pricing in exchange for New York's support of the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project. Speculation is not relevant to our determination of whether there is a need for a proposed project and whether the proposed project will serve the public interest. In any event, Transco has submitted precedent agreements along with credible market studies to demonstrate need for the project, consistent with the Certificate Policy Statement.*

*We find that there is no basis in the record here to depart from the Commission's general rule that the Commission does not look behind precedent agreements to question individual shippers' business decisions to enter into contracts, which has been upheld by the courts. Commenters have failed to provide sufficient credible contrary evidence to rebut the record evidence of need as demonstrated by Transco's precedent agreements for 100% of the project's capacity.<sup>11</sup>*

This time, the Commission cannot dismiss an explicit, clearly stated threat by the President of the United States that he is using the review of the Constitution Pipeline as a bargaining chip over legally-compliant offshore wind projects and leases. The Commission has a solemn, statutory directive from Congress to ensure that natural gas pipelines adhere to the public interest. And a crass political shakedown using Constitution Pipeline as a bludgeon is plainly contrary to the public interest that requires the Commission to look beyond precedent agreements to determine compliance with public necessity.

In light of direct confirmation by the President of the United States that he is punishing the Governor of New York by coercing financial settlements to revoke leased offshore wind, the Commission's position the *quid pro quo* is mere "speculation" is

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<sup>10</sup> [www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/OCS-A-0544.pdf](http://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/OCS-A-0544.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> August 28, 2025 *Order Issuing Certificate*, 192 FERC ¶ 61,184, at pp 41-42, [https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession\\_number=20250828-3105](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_number=20250828-3105)

untenable. The President's abuse of Executive Branch authorities to harm New York resource adequacy taints the Commission's public interest review of Constitution's petition for a certificate of public convenience and necessity. The clear threat issued by the President of the United States compromises the public interest in this proceeding. The Commission cannot grant the certificate under these conditions until it has completed a full investigation as part of an evidentiary hearing. The Commission must grant our motion to hold the proceeding in abeyance until that investigation in this docket is complete.

Respectfully submitted,

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# EXHIBIT A

## POLITICO PRO

STATE

# Trump slams Hochul on pipeline 'deal'

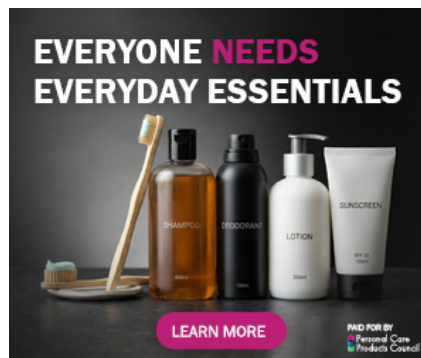
The president said the New York governor had broken her word to help approve a controversial pipeline through the state, a charge she's repeatedly denied.

BY: CARLOS ANCHONDO, MARIE J. FRENCH | 06/09/2026 03:47 PM EDT

President Donald Trump accused New York Gov. Kathy Hochul on Tuesday of renegeing on a pipelines-for-wind deal reportedly reached last year so that work on an offshore wind project could resume.

"We're getting held up by the governor of New York," Trump said about the Constitution pipeline after Monday's NBA finals game. "She made a deal with us to allow us to build it and she's holding it up, and Connecticut is suffering and all of New England is suffering, and upstate New York is really suffering."

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The White House last year said Hochul, a Democrat running for reelection, ["caved" to Trump](#) on a pair of gas pipelines so that construction on the Empire Wind 1 project could restart, a charge that Hochul's office has repeatedly denied. One of the pipelines [broke ground](#) earlier this year, but the second — the Williams Companies' Constitution pipeline project — is still working to get federal energy regulators to re-issue the project's certificate.

The proposed Constitution pipeline would start in northeastern Pennsylvania and end in upstate New York.

The White House referred POLITICO back to Trump's remarks. Hochul's team pushed back on the president's claim.

"This is completely false as the President looks for yet another way to feed his obsession with killing offshore wind," said Hochul spokesperson Ken Lovett. "Under Governor Hochul, New York will continue to be a clean energy and climate leader, even in the face of unending roadblocks put up by Washington Republicans."

The president's comments underscore the [growing pressure on Democratic leaders](#) in the Northeast over rising energy costs. A lack of pipelines into New England have been cited

— along with the war in Iran and growing energy demand — as a factor driving higher utility bills.

Hochul has enjoyed a [surprisingly collaborative relationship](#) with the president while publicly attacking him over key issues. She's blamed [Trump's opposition to offshore wind](#) as one driver behind her successful push this year to [weaken New York's climate law](#).

In May 2025, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum [said he was](#) “encouraged by Governor Hochul’s comments about her willingness to move forward on critical pipeline capacity.”

But Trump renewed attacks Tuesday on Hochul over the pipelines.

“We made a deal with her, and she broke the deal,” Trump said. “We made a deal. We’re going to give her a couple of windmills sometimes, because she likes windmills, which is a big mistake.”

The Constitution pipeline is already headed to court over [New York's opposition to a federal review](#) that seeks to do an [end-run around the state's permitting authority](#) under the Clean Water Act. Green groups have also [challenged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's process](#).

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, who lost to Hochul in the 2022 gubernatorial election, was in Binghamton on Monday to support construction of the Constitution pipeline and push for New York to lift its ban on fracking. Environmental groups organized a protest in the city, and Zeldin later joined Trump for the basketball game and his remarks to reporters.

“We remain committed to working with state and federal partners to build the Constitution Pipeline, which can help lower Northeasterners’ energy prices by billions of dollars and provide much-needed reliability,” said Williams spokesperson Cherice Corley, who didn't answer a question about Constitution's customers.

The 125-mile pipeline would cross hundreds of streams and wetlands in the state, raising concerns for environmental advocates. The project would deliver a significant injection of natural gas into the pipeline system flowing eastward into New England.

A study backed by Williams found the pipeline [could save gas customers in the Northeast](#) more than \$8 billion over 15 years. A timeline on Williams’ website indicates that the company expects the FERC to reissue a certificate for the pipeline project in the third quarter of 2026, and that the project could be in-service by the second quarter of 2028.

Hochul and her administration have repeatedly denied any explicit deal to approve a specific pipeline.

"This is an administration that has no credibility with the public, so consider the source when you're challenging something I'm telling you," Hochul told POLITICO in December when asked about the White House's earlier comments on a deal.

“What she told the President was that as part of her all-of-the-above approach to keep the lights on and costs down, she is open to gas projects if they meet required state laws and regulations,” Lovett said.

Hochul’s administration [approved state permits for Williams Co.'s other major New York project](#) to bring gas into the downstate region in November 2025. The state’s utility regulator [determined the additional supply was needed](#) to support reliability of the region’s gas system, which was thrown into a precarious situation during a winter storm in 2022.

At the same time, Williams Co. withdrew its application for state permits for the Constitution pipeline. The Department of Environmental Conservation had asked for additional information and said the project needed federal approval and to supply additional information.

Trump in December again moved to [block work on offshore wind projects](#), including two in New York.

*Timothy Cama contributed to this report.*



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