STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS
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June 28, 2012

John Zimmer, Project Manager
AECOM
95 State Road
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

Re: Constitution Pipeline Information Request

Dear Mr. Zimmer,

I am writing in response to your letter dated May 3, 2012, requesting information concerning agricultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed Constitution Pipeline facilities. It appears that the proposed facilities would be located in county adopted, State certified agricultural districts in Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Schoharie Counties. It also appears that the proposed pipeline would cross actively farmed agricultural land in these counties.

The agricultural land in these counties is used predominately for the production of field crops such as hay and corn, and for livestock grazing. Specialty crops including fruits, vegetables, and Christmas trees are also produced in these counties. A number of landowners also use maple trees for the production of maple syrup. The areas used for specialty crops and syrup production should be avoided when finalizing the proposed pipeline route. It is particularly important to minimize the length of the pipeline route in the Schoharie Valley because this area is intensively farmed and is used for the production of high-value crops. Pipeline construction in this area could have a significant economic impact on the farmers.

The proposed pipeline could potentially impact land improvement and conservation practices such as surface and subsurface drainage and diversion ditches. Attempts should be made to avoid such features. If avoidance is not possible, Constitution Pipeline Company, LLC (Constitution) will have to develop a mitigation plan to repair or replace any land improvement and conservation practices impacted by the project.

In a letter to you dated June 20, 2012, Larry Day, Soil and Groundwater Specialist with the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District, pointed out that the upland soils in Delaware County typically have a dense fragipan subsoil layer one to two feet below the soil surface. This is true for the upland soils in the other counties as well. Not only is this a concern relative to soil compaction, as Mr. Day discussed, but it is also a concern because pipeline construction through these types of soils often alters