CALLING FOR FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION TO HONOR ITS TRUST
RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER SECTION 106 TO IMPLEMENT AVOIDANCE PLANNING FOR CEREMONIAL
STONE LANDSCAPES

WHEREAS, USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of
twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each
member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal
Nation’s leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the lead federal agency responsible for
authorizing planned gas line expansion through New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and
Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, FERC should consult with Tribal Nations to fulfill its federal trust responsibility pursuant to the
National Historic Preservation Act, and other relevant authorities with regard to the planned gas
line expansions; and

WHEREAS, FERC has a trust responsibility that carries the fiduciary obligation to act in the best interest of the
Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, extensive regions of ceremonial stone landscapes (CSL) and other significant Tribal cultural
resources are in planned pipe line corridors, which exposes CSL to risk of destruction if
meaningful consultations with Tribal Nations are not initiated to prompt avoidance planning; and

WHEREAS, relations with FERC have improved, with respect to the Section 106 process, since the issuance
of USET Resolution No. 2014:056, in June 2014, which requested FERC to initiate formal
consultation with Tribal nations and to promote the development of pro-active avoidance plans;
and

WHEREAS, regardless of earlier efforts by FERC to engage in consultations with Tribal Nations, concerns
remain that CSLs are still being threatened or are at risk of destruction from gas line expansions; and

WHEREAS, there is particular concern that certain high concentrations of pristine ceremonial stone groupings
in and around the Pennsylvania town of Dallas, the Massachusetts towns of Plainfield, Northfield,
and the area of Upton-Grafton-Franklin-Milford will require heightened due diligence, vigilance
and advanced avoidance planning; and
WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED USET SPF requests Federal Energy Regulatory Commission engage in meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations to develop effective avoidance plans, which will guarantee the preservation and protection of ancestral lands, ceremonial stone landscapes, and existing reservations from potentially harmful and destructive effects of gas line construction activities.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 11, 2016.

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Brian Patterson, President
USET Sovereignty Protection Fund

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Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
USET Sovereignty Protection Fund

"Because there is strength in Unity"