

Stop The Minisink Compressor Station/ Minisink Residents for Environmental Preservation and Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

www.stopmcs.org

Sept.14, 2012- Yesterday FERC (The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) issued a tolling order on the controversial Minisink Compressor project slated for Orange County, NY. The agency is taking more time to review the community's request for a rehearing on the much debated natural gas proposal. The outcome of this case will set an important precedent either way, both on local and national fronts.

The plan calls for the siting of a 12,260 horsepower compressor station in the midst of a residential / agricultural zoned community; it is predicted that the station would release (from two 52-ft stacks) approximately 61,000 tons of pollutants into the air each year, including many known carcinogens, as turbines compress natural gas into pipelines.

Residents also have serious misgivings about the safety of the proposed facility. Millennium, a subsidiary of NiSource (who is responsible for the devastating compressor station explosion in Artemas PA last fall), proposes to site the compressor just over 600 ft. away from the closest homes. There are 239 homes within a half a mile from the site. Minisink has no town police, and only volunteer firefighters, should a gas emergency occur at this location. To add insult to injury, Minisink is home to a large community of 9/11 First Responders living with respiratory and other health problems.

Publicly unveiled over a year ago by Millennium Pipeline, Inc., of Houston, TX, the Minisink Compressor plan has met with incredible opposition, largely because an alternative plan now exists that ensures dramatically less impact on local communities, farms, and the environment. This community-backed proposal is known as the Wagoner Alternative.

Last month, FERC ruled in a 3-2 split decision to approve the Minisink Compressor project. Chairman Wellinghoff and Commissioner LaFleur, however, wrote strong statements of dissent, agreeing the community-backed alternate plan, the Wagoner Alternative, was a superior proposal.

Carolyn Elefant, the D.C.-based attorney representing Minisink, believes the community has a very strong argument, and thus a reasonable chance of having the decision overturned.

This past week, on the 11th anniversary of 9/11, John Feal, a prominent 9/11 advocate, and First Responder, submitted a letter to FERC commissioners calling on them to overturn the 3-2 decision. "Please do not un-necessarily cause more suffering to those residents of Minisink," Feal stated. "While we cannot recover the lives already lost we can do everything possible to protect the survivors."

Also this week, M.U.S.T.- Mothers United for Sustainable Technologies- released a video short about Minisink's fight against the unwanted natural gas facility, entitled 'Throwing Stones at Goliath.' The 7-minute documentary, containing interviews of local residents, is available for viewing on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LELJc4rngn0&feature=plcp>.

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More information about Minisink's fight can be found at www.stopmcs.org or on FERC's e-library, Docket CP11-515.