

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

www.stopmcs.org

**Minisink, NY Residents To Protest Outside FERC Building
and on Capitol Hill**

Washington, D.C. - October 18, 2012 - Residents from Minisink, New York will rally outside of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission building on Thursday, Oct. 18th after the 9:00am monthly commissioner meeting. The protest will be followed by visits to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer's offices. Over 80 members of the community, including several 9/11 first responders, are demanding FERC expedite a response to their rehearing challenge. The final decision will set an important precedent not only for the state, but also for communities across the nation.

Minisink residents intend to challenge their case in the U.S. Court of Appeals, but are prevented by recent tolling orders issued by FERC. The tolling order allows FERC as much time as they deem appropriate to respond to the rehearing requests; in some previous cases this period has lasted several years. Meanwhile, Millennium Pipeline has begun construction of the compressor station, working at an alarming speed, despite the undecided FERC ruling. The Minisink community feels this is a complete violation of their due process rights.

Residents have been fighting the construction of a 12,260 horsepower compressor station in a residential area of town since July, 2011. Families are gravely worried about safety, health and economic impacts. The closest home to the proposed site is only 650 ft. away, and there are over 200 other families within a half-mile of the site. Among them are several 9/11 first responders with documented lung damage who are extremely concerned about further health implications from toxic emissions.

Residents have been pushing for an alternative site located only 10 miles away. Known as the Wagoner Station, this is an 18.8 acre cleared site that is industrially zoned and already owned by the gas company. The Wagoner Station had a temporary compressor station operating on the property for three years. The closest residence to the alternative site is over three-quarters of a mile away.

FERC Chairman Wellinghoff and Commissioner LaFleur voted against the Minisink Compressor proposal on July 17, 2012 and gave full explanations why they support the alternative location. Carolyn Elefant, the D.C.-based attorney who is representing Minisink, believes the community has an excellent case and a likelihood of having the decision overturned in court.

For more information visit www.stopmcs.org. A visual comparison of the alternative site vs. the Minisink location, as well as FERC Commissioners' comments can be found on the website.

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