

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

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**US Senators Schumer and Gillibrand Urge FERC to Expedite Rehearing Response on
Minisink Compressor Station Docket**

Minisink, New York - October 23, 2012 - Minisink residents fighting the construction of a natural gas compressor station received support from both Senator Charles Schumer and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in the form of a letter submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) this week. The letter urges FERC to respond to rehearing requests submitted on August 16, 2012. Millennium Pipeline, a subsidiary of NiSource, began construction of the facility on Oct. 1st despite the lack of a final legal decision on the proposal.

Over 80 members of the Minisink community descended on the senators' Washington, D.C. offices on October 18th pleading for assistance with their FERC docket. Residents met with aides from both offices and expressed their frustration with the ongoing construction despite FERC continuing to review issues in rehearing request documents. The Minisink community would like to take their case to the U.S. Court of Appeals, but are unable to do so while their case is under FERC review.

On September 13, 2012 FERC issued a tolling order, allowing the staff extra time to review issues raised in rehearing requests, and the Commission has yet to respond. Minisink residents are seeking an expedited final response to either reverse or modify the order. 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. FERC's Office of Energy Projects has granted Millennium Pipeline permission to begin construction while rehearing concerns are being reviewed. The Minisink community feels FERC is delaying a response in order to prohibit the community from challenging the docket (CP11-515) ruling in federal court.

The D.C.-based attorney representing Minisink residents, Carolyn Elefant, believes the group has an excellent chance of having their decision overturned in the U.S. Court of Appeals. Support for the community-backed Wagoner Alternative continues to grow. The Minisink Community will be hosting a rally against the project on Friday, Oct. 26th, at 3:00pm

For more information about the ongoing Minisink struggle, and to see a copy of the Senators' letter please visit www.stopmcs.org.

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