

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FealGood Foundation's John Feal To Attend Friday's Minisink Rally Against Compressor

Minisink, NY - October 26, 2012- Prominent 9/11 First Responder and advocate John Feal (of the FealGood Foundation) will be joining Minisink residents rallying at the site of the controversial Minisink Compressor Station this Friday at 3:00pm. Hundreds are expected to rally outside the construction site, located at 90 Jacobs Road. The community has been battling the controversial natural gas plan for 16 months.

Several 9/11 responders- as well as their families and widows, reside in close proximity to the proposed site of the proposed facility- most are within a half-mile. Minisink residents are gravely concerned about threats to their families' health and safety, as well as damaging effects to local farms and the town's economy posed by the compressor station.

Feal submitted a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on September 11th, 2012, supporting the residents of Minisink. "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."

The Minisink community has come up with an alternate proposal that ensures less risk to human lives, has less than half the proposed emissions, and is located .75 miles from the closest residence. The site (known as Wagoner Station) is industrially zoned and already owned by Millennium Pipeline, a subsidiary of NiSource. In contrast, the Minisink site is within .5 miles of over 200 families, and several local small farms in an area zoned residential and agricultural.

Two of the five FERC commissioners presently accountable for the final decision, Chairman John Wellinghoff and Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur, agree fully with the Minisink residents that their community-supported plan is superior. They not only dissented in the final 3-2 order, but also issued statements strongly chastising the other three commissioners for their lack of foresight, and inability to properly weigh the public good of the project. This divided stance among orders has not occurred since the 1970s.

The D.C.-based attorney representing Minisink, Carolyn Elefant, believes the group has an excellent chance of having their decision overturned in the U.S. Court of Appeals. The Minisink community is prevented from progressing to the court system by FERC-issued tolling orders. This allows FERC as much time as they deem appropriate, in some cases several years, to issue a final response.

Millennium is currently moving rapidly with the construction of the 12,260 horsepower station, despite the lack of a final response to issues raised in rehearing requests. Residents are outraged that construction is permitted while rehearing concerns are being considered. Minisink families claim historical precedent indicates that projects already constructed have rarely, if ever, been denied by the FERC, and this clearly favors corporate interests over citizen's due process.

Minisink residents and their supporters will be meeting at 90 Jacobs Rd, Westtown, NY, 10998, beginning at 3:00pm. For more information, please visit www.stopmcs.org.

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