

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Minisink Rally Against Compressor - With Congresswoman
Nan Hayworth
Orange Co., NY - Friday, October 26th, At 3:00pm**

Minisink, NY - October 26, 2012- Minisink residents will be rallying at the site of the controversial Minisink Compressor Station this Friday at 3:00pm. Congresswoman Nan Hayworth will be in attendance and speaking with families in close proximity to the site. Hundreds of residents are expected to attend and rally outside the construction site, located at 90 Jacobs Road. The community has been battling the controversial natural gas plan for 16 months.

Congresswoman Nan Hayworth submitted a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) October 18th supporting the residents of Minisink, and asking for an expedited final response to issues raised in their rehearing requests. Members of the community 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.

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 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 organic 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 is an unprecedented divided stance among orders issued by FERC Commissioners- unheard of 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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