

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blow-Down Events at Minisink Compressor Frighten Un-notified Residents; Several Health Symptoms Reported; Local Volunteer Fire Department Responds to Reports of Flaring, and “Booming” Noises

Minisink, NY, March 11, 2013- This week blow-down events occurred in Minisink, NY, as Millennium Pipeline, a subsidiary of NiSource (NI), which has just become Columbia Pipeline Group (CPG), released unknown quantities of high- pressured emissions from two metering stations in order to “clear the line” as they connected the compressor station to the main gas pipeline. However, Millennium failed to notify several of the residents of Minisink of the ‘code red’ event. Numerous residents have reported nosebleeds, painful headaches, nausea and stomach pain, and dizziness this week.

Although the blow-down events were scheduled for March 5th and 6th (Tuesday and Wednesday of last week), early this morning the local volunteer fire department was called to the scene when loud “booms” were heard at approximately 8:30 am, followed by noxious fumes. The sounds and smells were perceptible from half a mile away. The specific cause is still unknown.

“We were shocked and scared to hear this tremendous noise coming from the compressor station,” said Asha Canalos, a Minisink resident, “If this was planned why weren’t we notified?” Millennium is bound by law to report these events to residents of the town at least a few days before the blow-down occurs.

Many residents of Minisink feel that Millennium Pipeline is rushing the compressor station project in order to get it on-line before the community’s case against the project is heard at the U.S. Court of Appeals. Millennium’s motion to dismiss the case was refused by the federal court last Wednesday.

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For more information visit www.stopmcs.org. Press Coordinators: Asha Canalos 917. 582. 8409 / Carolyn Petschler 845. 313. 9801 / Facebook & Twitter: “Stop the Minisink Compressor Station.”