

Bruce Baxter, Sunrise Nursery Bainbridge, NY

Landowner, Tree Farmer, Taxpayer on this land for over 30 years

My saga starts with Chesapeake Energy offering me \$60,000 and a lifetime supply of mailbox money for a lease to drill for gas.

After learning of the perils of Dimmock Pa. water. I declined to sell

Then I received letters from Constitution Pipeline wanting to install a 30 inch high pressure pipeline through my yard

They invited me to the nicest restaurant in the area for a meet and greet
I brought my son who studied environmental science and horticulture at U of Maine and graduated Rutgers

After being greeted by all the execs. And them not being able to BS me since I once worked in the industry as an equipment operator, close to the owners and knew of the lies. I was passed off to Aubrey Mc Clendon. Who assured me I was going to receive triple my land's value. Which the tax assessor appraised at \$350,000.

Not knowing that I refused to sell my mineral rights, he told me that this is actually a feeder line applied for as a prerequisite for fracking in NY. Feeder lines cannot claim eminent domain nor are regulated by FERC, so this is being sold as an interstate transmission line for eminent domain and lower payouts to landowners. He needs me to sign on so I can collect my mailbox money. My question to him was Really? and what if the actual numbers aren't as you promised and it's not worth the offer? His reply was. We will take you by eminent domain since it's been approved by FERC. which he claimed they owned. along with the politicians and judges.

FERC would give them my land and the pipe would be in service long before my not yet born grandchildren would get a court date or compensation if they ever do.
I offered him a Waco Texas or Ruby Ridge type of outcome. Now I have NY state troopers guarding me at all events.

Then comes the FedEx envelope telling me that I am ordered to appear before NY district court judges Mordue and Trece for a mandatory eminent domain and compensation hearing.

Constitution came in to appraise my commercial riverfront land with a 5 bed 5 bath energy star rated house and barn at \$100,000 and came armed with a check for \$3000 which doesn't cover half a year's taxes

The day before that hearing I get another FedEx from the not so honorable judges telling me I lost by reason of partial summary judgment. Which was explained to me by Liz Witmer of Saul Ewing, Constitutions Law Firm.

Partial summary judgment is that the gas company won before, so now they have set a precedent and automatically win. Sort of like telling OJ Simpson that he once got acquitted of murder, now he has a license to kill.

The judges ruled against me. Gave me \$0 and said there is a bond to cover me. Saul ewing cant tell me where it is. My farming and development rights are gone. My property value is diminished. My land is now an energy corridor in which they can add as many pipes of whatever size they want to transport whatever they want and increase pressure for even more profits widening the blast zone. With no additional compensation. And Im stuck with the tax bill for life

A similar size pipe incinerated a home and land 400 feet away in salem Pa this spring and burned the siding off another house 700 feet away

Constitution Pipeline, what a name since they just trampled my constitutional 5th amendment rights to a mandatory court/compensation hearing and being against eminent domain for private corporate greed.

The next day constitutions work crews show up to do test bores and surveying. Funny that all the jobs they were going to create for the locals. All of the workers were from everywhere else but NY.. Except the state troopers who outnumbered the pipe crew they were protecting, but they don't count as they are paid by the NY taxpayers.

Ferc has been around doing this kind of stuff for 30 years, being paid by the energy companies they are supposed to be monitoring, to rubberstamp projects for the energy companies using incomplete/fraudulent draft impact studies, and closed door open public meetings. Until last year when they finally denied 1 project because of WE The People have exposed them.

Not all is bad, I did get an offer to sell my place for the \$350,000 it was tax assessed at. Until they found out about the eminent domain during attorney review and cancelled the offer. So much for promises of increased property value, jobs creation and endless mailbox money