

My name is Pramilla Malick, Chair of Protect Orange County and resident of Minisink, N.Y. a small rural residential community just 60 miles outside of New York City.

In 2012 FERC approved a dangerous 12 000 HP gas compressor station to be built within our bucolic community by Millennium Pipeline a company with a long history of safety violations. The station was built on a national historic site farm, in the middle of populated residential neighborhood surrounded by organic and dairy farms with several homes a mere 600 feet away.

The project was approved despite 600 substantive comments, dozens of expert reports and scientific studies, after exposing numerous errors, omissions, and misrepresentations in the company's statements, after documenting fraud, lack of need and the existence of a viable and less harmful alternative. While these facilities don't belong in any town it was especially egregious considering some unique attributes of Minisink which is nicknamed the town of guns and hoses due to its large population of police officers and firefighters who serve the NYC metro region. It is also the reason we are home to a large number of 9/11 first responders many suffering from related illnesses some who moved to the area per medical advice to live in a pristine environment. Faced with the prospect of exposure to 60,000 tons of annual GHG emissions along with 400 tons of toxic chemicals, our community had engaged the process fully and faithfully only to find that the regulatory review is rigged in favor of these billion dollar companies with an shameful sense of entitlement.

The project became operational in 2013 and since then our community lives with frequent blowdown events in which large releases of gas fill the air with noxious odors. These events are usually followed by reports of headaches, nausea, nosebleeds and breathing difficulties by residents. In 2014 a team of scientists tested our air quality and found PM2.5 readings at 300-500 ug/m3, 20 times safe levels for human health. They also conducted health surveys and high ratios of impacts. For eg out of a group of 12 children, 6 began getting nosebleeds. This is a picture of my own daughter after an emissions event. I also have trouble breathing as a result. Finally many families have been forced to flee. Nick Russo a 9/11 first responder with lung damage who's home was across the street from the station was forced to leave. And a family of 6 was forced to walk away from their \$450,000 American dream home which still sits empty today. My neighbor Robyn Freund, a widow who lost her husband on 9/11 who's home abuts the facility is terrorized every day knowing that it can explode at any time, within a year and a half of the station becoming operational she lost 4 therapy animals, and now lives in fear of the health impacts it is having on her and her family.

Now as the company plans yet more expansion we are a community under siege, held hostage by FERC's excessive and abusive powers. I would like to note that right now an energy bill called S2012 is being pushed to Obama's desk that would grant FERC even greater powers. This would be absolutely catastrophic for communities, human health, and the environment and we along with 200 organizations around the country are asking that Obama not sign it into law.

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