

TALKING POINTS

National Fuel Gas NORTHERN ACCESS 2016 PROJECT

Issues and factual information regarding a proposal to install over 100 miles of high pressure 24” pipeline from Pennsylvania Marcellus and Utica natural gas drilling fields to northwest NYS and Canada.

- **Information** about the pipeline proposal, location, permits applied for, Public Hearings schedule, and how to submit written comment can be accessed at the ENB Region 9 Notices of 1/25/2017 or at the DEC website at WWW.dec.ny.gov/enb/20170125_not9.html
- **Proliferation of more pipelines** and infrastructure for increased marketing distribution and usage of fossil fuels is heading in the wrong direction and takes us away from a renewable and sustainable energy future.
- **Stopping the expansion of fossil fuel usage** will not result in job loss for our friends and neighbors who currently perform the task of distributing natural gas to our homes and businesses. There are thousands of miles of pipeline and connections to be maintained. There are numerous leaks awaiting repair and endless maintenance required in order to protect the environment. A well maintained existing infrastructure and moratorium on expansion is what is needed not expanded usage and increased pollution.
- **Renewable energy based job development** far currently far outpaces job creation and development in the fossil fuel industry.
- **The gas industry is seeking to hike customers gas rates** to support pipeline costs and dividends to shareholders. The 455 million dollar Northern Access pipeline will export fracked gas to Canada . There will be a tax benefit to the Counties and Towns hosting the pipeline and easement payments to private landowners, but millions of customers in the region will pay for that in their increased monthly gas rates. The rate hike is projected to generate \$69 per year from each customer or an extra 41.7 million in cash per year for the company. That is not counting the revenues from the 442 million standard cubic feet per day of natural gas to be sold to Canadian and foreign markets.
- **The proposed pipeline will cross the Cattaraugus Creek Basin Aquifer** for a distance of 13 miles. This is an EPA designated sole source unconsolidated aquifer (meaning it can more readily be

impacted by surface pollution) that supplies public water to over 20,000 residents of Cattaraugus, Erie and Wyoming Counties, including eight municipal, 15 community water systems and countless private wells.

- **The Federal Regulatory Energy Commission is wrong**, in their review of the project, and in making the determination that the temporary, shallow and localized excavation would not significantly affect groundwater resources. There is a lack of consideration of how groundwater flows along the exterior of pipes for large distances, (piping) and reviewers fail to consider the potential contamination of the groundwater during a leak, either major or chronic small leak, which wouldn't trigger shutdown. The Marcellus/Utica shale gas also carries with it elevated levels of Radon gas which is water soluble and during its residency in the pipeline will be decaying into daughter isotopes of Polonium 210 and Lead 210. These as well as the natural gas hydrates (scale) that build up in gas transmission pipelines are potential contaminants of concern. Remember, we are transporting 442 million standard cubic feet of gas per day at 1200 pounds per square inch of pressure in a 24 inch pipe.
- The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in a response to the Northern Access Project dated August 25, 2016 concluded that:
“Based on the Department’s review of the EA and these comments, The EA is currently deficient and at a minimum needs to be supplemented and include an additional comment period. Many details pertaining to this project with respect to ensuring that the project will meet water quality standards remains incomplete and as such, it is clearly premature to conclude that the project will not have a significant impact on surface water resources. While at a minimum a supplemental EA is necessary, the Department believes that an EIS would be a better means to address the potential impacts and issues raised in this letter.” A full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has not been prepared for this pipeline proposal and many issues normally covered in a EIS have not been identified or examined.
- **One month public comment review time is not enough** due to the size of the proposed project, myriad issues for examination and the fact that the DEC is running the review and public comment period for 4 permits concurrently. This cannot effectively be performed by

the public in a one month time frame and an extension of 60 days in addition to the existing deadline of February 24, 2017 should be requested by the public and granted by DEC. A reasonable target for a new suggested deadline for public comment is April 26th.

- **The proposed use of Eminent Domain** procedures to condemn the properties of landowners, to use for this installation of the proposed pipeline, is not for public benefit and in some portions of the proposed right of way will generate a legal challenge by the landowners. Unscrupulous practices have coerced landowners into signing permissions and easements which are not the most protective of their interests long term. Those who choose not to sign over their rights to their property are being threatened with costly Eminent Domain court proceedings.
- **The benefit/cost** to western NY after tearing up streams, bisecting woods and farmland as well as affecting land value, needs to be fairly and accurately presented in **the assessment of need** required by DEC as part of reviewing the project prior to Water Quality Certification. The NYS and National energy plans set high goals for the use of renewable energy sources in the near future. The energy needs of New York State are currently being met without shortages and within reasonable and stable price structures. The existing infrastructure is currently meeting those needs and the intention of the Northern Access Pipeline Project is to feed Marcellus and Utica Black Shale fracked gas from Pennsylvania to foreign markets via Canada. This will line the pockets of industry and a few investors at the expense to, not benefit of the public in Western NY.
- **Seizing our land under Eminent Domain for a Pipeline Right of Way (ROW) is stepping on our Constitutional Rights and interfering with our livelihood, economic standing and property values:** Many landowners make their money by farming, or having planned building retirement or hunting cabins on their property. The pipeline ROW threatened by Eminent Domain has a detrimental and destructive impact on these plans as it cuts a 75 foot swath through properties with little regard to building sites, barns, farmed fields, wildlife habitat/pathways and waterways. Loss of revenue, increased insurance rates next to pipelines and decreased property value bring economic hardship to landowners.
- **The pipeline is dangerously close to AC Electric high tension power lines** with 68 miles of it running in a 75 foot wide right of way next to existing electric transmission line rights of way in

Allegany, Cattaraugus and lower Erie County. The cathodic protection placed every 14 miles and EMF of power lines can create stray voltage as well as aggravate the disintegration of the pipe over time. Stray Voltage can be harmful to human and livestock health. This is of concern.

- **The threat and disturbance to soil and water resources** is significant as the pipeline will trench through or bore under 180 streams, 270 wetlands and 7 ponds. It will bisect the 330 square mile Cattaraugus Creek Basin Aquifer which is a Sole Source for tens of thousands of citizens.