

**Monday, December 16, 2024**

Dear Governor Hochul,

We the undersigned 105 organizations urge you to stop the expansion by compression of the aging, over 30-year-old Iroquois natural gas pipeline. The expansion project, if approved, will significantly increase the volume of fracked gas flowing to New York City's National Grid and Consolidated Edison customers. This proposal requires expanding two polluting compressor stations in the Hudson Valley region — in Athens and Dover — and two additional compressor stations along the pipeline's route in Connecticut.

This proposal poses an imminent threat to New Yorkers' health and well-being through increased air pollution and risk of explosions. Compressor stations have a documented history of emitting cancer-causing chemicals, including elevated levels of nitrogen oxide (NOx), fine particulate matter, carbon monoxide, benzene, and formaldehyde. The harmful effects of NOx and particulate matter pollution on respiratory health are well-established, contributing to chronic bronchitis, asthma, emphysema, aggravated heart diseases, difficulty breathing, and reduced life expectancy. New Yorkers have a right to clean air, clean water, and a healthful environment as a result of the Green Amendment (that passed overwhelmingly in 2021) and this proposal would infringe on those rights.

In addition to the danger of the compressor stations, pipelines themselves are historically dangerous. The Iroquois Pipeline, in particular, doesn't have a good track record. In 1996 the Iroquois Pipeline Company was [fined by the EPA and US DOJ for violating the clean water act](#) in their destruction of wetlands and streams in the construction of the pipeline. This was the second largest fine in history next to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. According to an [NRDC](#) report published in 2019, natural gas pipelines led all pipeline infrastructure in injuries, deaths, fires, evacuations, and explosions. In August 2023, the [Environmental Defense Fund](#) reported on methane leaks from pipelines and found that U.S. natural gas pipelines are leaking between 1.2 million and 2.6 million tons of methane per year. In 2022, a report from the [U.S. PIRG Education Fund, Environment America Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group](#) revealed that 2,600 hazardous gas pipeline leaks in the United States caused more than \$4 billion in damages and emergency services, killed 122 people, and released 26.6 billion cubic feet of fuel as methane or carbon dioxide. Doctors Russo and Carpenter, from the Institute for Health & the

Environment in Rensselaer NY, told the Sierra Club: ["In our opinion, the routine emissions surrounding the operation of natural gas compressor stations in New York State \(NYS\) increase the risk for most major categories of human disease in the state but especially in the communities where they are sited."](#)

The proposal to expand the Iroquois compressors, in addition to being dangerous, is also antithetical to our state's climate goals. Any proposal that would increase fracked gas distribution in New York must be denied for this reason. Producing and distributing fracked gas releases vast amounts of methane — trapping about [86 times more](#) heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide within a twenty year time frame. Methane leaks from oil and gas operations are the number-one source of human-caused methane pollution in the country. It's simple: we cannot reach our ambitious emissions reductions goals if we continue to approve projects that will burn more fracked gas.

Governor Hochul, you possess the obligation and the authority to safeguard our environment, our health, and our future. We implore you to deny the expansion of the Iroquois fracked gas pipeline and to champion a brighter, cleaner, and more sustainable future for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

350 Brooklyn

350.org

Adirondack Voters for Change

All Our Energy

Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE)

Beyond Plastics

Big Reuse

Campaign for Renewable Energy

Church Women United in New York State

Clean Air Action Network of Glens Falls

Clean Air Coalition of Greater Ravena-Coeymans

Clearwater

Climate Crisis Working Group (IMV)

Climate Reality Project Long Island Chapter

Climate Reality Project New York State Chapter Coalition

Climate Reality Project NYC Chapter

Coalition for Outreach, Policy & Education

Coalition for Outreach, Policy & Education

[ColorBrightonGreen.org](http://ColorBrightonGreen.org)

Columbia County Reduces Waste--Bring Your Own

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Communities for Local Power

Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment

Concerned Citizens of Dover

Concerned Citizens of Otego

Concerned Families of Westchester

Concerned Health Professionals of New York

Deep Green Resistance New York City

Earthkeeper Health Resources

EcoJustice Collaborative of the ABCRGR

Food & Water Watch

For the Many

FrackBusters NY

Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement

Grassroots Environmental Education

Greece Baptist Church Sustainability Team

Green Choices Consulting

HabitatMap

Indivisible Columbia County

Long Island Progressive Coalition

Mamaki

Metro Justice

Mid-Hudson Group of the Sierra Club

Mothers Out Front Dutchess County

Mothers Out Front NY

Mountain Top Progressives

New York Communities for Change

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

New York Progressive Action Network

New York Public Interest Research Group

New Yorkers for Clean Power

North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)

North Star Fund

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)

Northern Catskills Audobon Society

NY Climate Advocacy Project

NY-GEO

NYCD16 Indivisible

NYPAN Enviro Committee

NYPAN Greene

Palm

Peace Action New York State

People for a Healthy Environment

PEOPLE FOR A LIVEABLE EARTH

Peoples Climate Movement - NY

Progressive Schenectady

Reach Out America

ResistSpectra

Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith Circle

Rockland Citizens Action Network

Roctricity, LLC

Safe Energy Rights Group

Sane Energy Project

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, N.Y.

Sixth Street Community Center

Solidarity Committee, Capital District

South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc

Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline

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Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion

Sunrise Movement NYC

SUNY New Paltz Environmental Task Force

Sustainable Saratoga

Syracuse Cultural Workers

Syracuse Peace Council

The Beacon Sloop Club

The Earth Bill Network

The James Connolly Upstate NY General Membership Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World

THIRD ACT

Third Act NYC

Third Act Upstate New York

Third Act Upstate New York

TIAA-Divest!

Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative

Transition Town Port Washington

Ulster Activists

United For Clean Energy

Uptown Progressive Action

UUDig Community Garden

WESPAC Foundation, Inc.

Western New York Environmental Alliance

Yorktown100

Zero Waste Columbia

Zero Waste Ithaca