



Amelia Dombal  
<akdwoman@yahoo.co  
m>

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

10/11/2011 02:23 PM

Please do not grant the Nisource permit. A blanket 50 year permit will reek havoc on the wildlife in our area. O and the disruption to wildlife by the toxicity of emissions, the smell and the noise will reduce all wildlife, as well environmental study will tell you that. PLEASE, NO permit.

I also ask that you lengthen the time to allow comments on this permit.

Respectfully,  
Amelia Dombal  
536 County Route 22  
Middletown, NY 10940

Many people are hungry not for bread only, but they are hungry for ... love. People have forgotten what the hum somebody to smile at them, somebody to recognize them, somebody to wish them well.

**- Mother Teresa**



Dolores Lombardo  
<alndee2@optimum.net  
>

To: permitsr3es@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Nisource permit

10/10/2011 01:21 PM

Re: NISOURCE PERMIT

I am writing to you regarding the permit that NISOURCE is requesting. A blanket 50 year permit for Nisource will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millennium project.

We are asking for a public hearing. We would also like to request an extension of time to file comments.

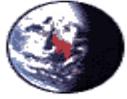
I am concerned because of the issue that the endangered Indiana Bat colonies at the proposed site will be threatened from noise, emissions, and disruption of their known summer roosting locations. There are also bald eagles nests on the property.

There are also endangered plant species on the property.

We demand a full environmental impact study be done before any permits are issued.

Please place me on you notification list.

ALEXANDER LOMBARDO  
ALNDEE2@OPTONLINE.NET



Alex Lombardo  
<alndee@optonline.net>

10/10/2011 01:12 PM

To: permitsr3es@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NIsourse permit

Re: NISOURCE PERMIT

I am writing to you regarding the permit that NISOURCE is requesting. A blanket 50 year permit for Nisource will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millennium project.

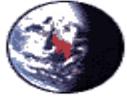
We are asking for a public hearing. We would also like to request an extension of time to file comments.

I am concerned because of the issue that the endangered Indiana Bat colonies at the proposed site will be threatened from noise, emissions, and disruption of their known summer roosting locations. There are also bald eagles nests on the property.

There are also endangered plant species on the property.

We demand a full environmental impact study be done before any permits are issued.

Please place me on you notification list.



Barbara Liedtke  
<liedtkeb@msn.com>

10/11/2011 12:22 PM

To: <permitsr3es@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: nosource permit

To Whom It May Concern,

It has just come to my attention that an application has been filed with you to approve the incidental take of 10 species, 9 of which are federally listed. I am writing to implore you to deny this application. I cannot understand why this would even be considered. I think the first thing you need to consider is WHY is this company requesting authorization to kill off the wildlife in our community? These species have been living here in PEACEFUL, QUITE, HARMONY with the community for many years, and the Indiana Bat alone is a major necessity for this community in order to keep the insect population under control. These animals have posed NO threat in our community so there would be no reasoning behind the genocide of the species in this area.

Your organization was found to PROTECT, AND SAVE our wildlife. Since there is NO THREAT from these animals there is NO REASON to authorize the unwarranted KILLING of them.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, deny this application. Put LIFE first over money!



Carolyn Petschler  
<cpetschler@hotmail.co  
m>

To: <permitsr3es@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: NiSource Permit Application

10/10/2011 09:31 PM

Attn: Lisa Mandell  
Regional Director  
Midwest Region,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

I just found out that public comments could be made to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding NiSource's application for permits under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). I would first like to ask you if an extension of the deadline could be pushed to a later date so members of the community can now be made aware there is a comment period?

NiSource, a parent company of Millennium Pipeline, wants to build a 12,260 horsepower compressor station in the Town of Minisink, New York. Considering the magnitude of the project and the potential emissions, emergency mis-haps and definite various frequency noise the compressor station would produce, there is no doubt in my mind some of the species of concern would be effected. This compressor station will run 24/7 365 days a year. There have been claims that it would primarily run in the winter months. Considering the increase in demand that is expected by the industry this claim would not be true for long, especially if the New York moratorium on drilling is lifted at the end of this year. The community has also found evidence of the natural gas industries future plans of expansion and additional compressor stations for the area. Any expansion will compound emissions, noise and safety concerns even further. Millennium Pipeline has already had serious leaks and faulty welds on the pipeline (please see links below), and now wants to expand on this project after they can not maintain what they have already constructed. FERC is also only completing an EA at the moment and not a full EIS. For that reason alone permit approval should be halted.

I would like to make particular attention to the Indiana Bat. The proposed area is a known roosting spot for the bat. The compressor station will produce various frequency noise levels and have a potential risk for the wildlife in the area as a result (dBA, dBC). Has analysis of various frequencies been conducted to find out the true impact on the bats? I have made several calls to experts in the area of mammology and bat echolocation. Due to the holiday weekend, I will not have a response till later in the week. Could you please push the comment period so more information on the impact can be presented?

In addition there have been no Health Impact Studies done on the long term cumulative effects of natural gas production, to include compressor stations. There is evidence beginning to come forward from across the country that the emissions and noise frequencies are causing a negative impact on health of wildlife and residents surrounding these facilities. I would like to request that further study into long term cumulative effects is conducted to ensure that our nations endangered species do not come into contact with further potential risks. This project in no way benefits any species in the area endangered or not. Since the compressor station will be run on natural gas extracted from the Marcellus Shale deposits, has the amount of radon226 being potentially emitted into the surrounding area also been reviewed?

I would also like to ask why would a permit be granted for 50 years?! Could a dramatically shorter period be granted so impact on the area can be re-evaluated? A five year permit, if at all.

Due to the rate at which species are being added to the endangered species list, during the 50 years there may be many more species that need particular care and precautions. Please do not authorize such a large time frame for a permit! I would also ask that independent sources from the gas industry prepare a MSHCP. I find it appalling that the company has prepared the MSHCP considering that their goals and motivation to getting this project approved. When reviewing the scale of the project, and the amount of funds and resources that are available to the applicant to push projects forward (NiSource is a fortune 500 company in the business of making money not protecting our environment) that a delay be made to granting any permits.

My biggest concern is the rate this project is being moved forward. We need to ensure we pause and make an accurate, independent review of the impacts this project will have on our environment from experts in the area who have no affiliation with the energy and gas industries. Taking the companies word for it is not a sufficient reason to move forward, as we have all learned from in the past. Please help us guarantee our beautiful countryside and environment stays that way for future generations.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Petschler

Resident of Minisink, New York

<http://www.iroquois.com/project/documents/NYMarcBrochure05-13-10.pdf>

<http://www.oneidacountycourier.com/2011/10/08/natural-gas-from-hydrofracking-in-marcellus-s-hale-may-result-in-high-levels-of-radon-gas-and-lead-in-homes/>

<http://www.isssource.com/feds-millennium-pipeline-unsafe/>

<http://www.naturalgaswatch.org/?p=761>

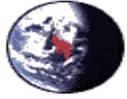


"d.a. honkala"  
<dahonkala@yahoo.com>

To: "permitsR3ES@fws.gov" <permitsR3ES@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject:

10/11/2011 08:39 AM  
Please respond to "d.a.  
honkala"

Please don't allow Millenium to bypass environmental safeguards so they can build a compressor station in the Town of Minisink, NY. If there are endangered wildlife in our community, this will absolutely allow this slaughter of animals to continue by this company. They do NOT need to build this building here. They can enlarge a portion of the pipeline in this area negating the need for toxic emitting machine. Shouldn't they exhaust all other options before building anoter machine to burn fossil fuel into the air. That is the right thing to do! Sincerely, Darrell Honkala 13 Dickison Rd Westtown NY 10998



Donna Biondolillo  
<dlb2@optimum.net>

10/11/2011 10:23 AM

To: permitsr3es@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Nisource permit for Minisink NY

I live in Minisink NY the proposed sight for Millenium gas compressor station. We as a town have many objections to this being put in a residential area and we want a full environmental impact study to be done. I also am asking you to please extend the comment period for these permits as once again a company with a questionable background is trying to destroy our environment. A 50 year permit for Nisource will not protect the the animal species on this land. We know that the Indiana bat summer roosts on this property which is an endangered species. we also know that bald eagles next on this property. Other species that are on the endangered list are Bog turtles, Club shell, Fanshell, James spiny mussel, Northern Rifleshell. The threatened species are the Madison Cave Isopod and the Nashville crayfishes. On the proposed list o is American burying beetle. Please deny this permit to Nisource and protect our environment.

Thank You

Donna Biondollilo

Please place me on the notification list

dlb2@optimum.net

73 county route 12 Westtown NY 10998



Deborah Lain  
<deblain28@yahoo.com>  
>

To: "permitsR3ES@fws.gov" <permitsR3ES@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: NiSource permit and comment period

10/10/2011 03:26 PM  
Please respond to  
Deborah Lain

This is a comment on the NiSource permit application which I would like to be entered into the record.

Please extend the deadline for filing comments on issuing a permit to NiSource (Millenium pipeline) for a compressor station to be built in the Town of Minisink, New York. There are hundreds of people in this area who are very upset about the potential impact of this project and we just found out that you are about to close the comment period. Fifty years is a long time – at least give us another month to tell you what we know. We also request a full environment study before issuing a permit.

We have found that, in our dealings with NiSource/Millenium, they have not always been telling FERC the truth. They told FERC two things about the area's ability to respond to an emergency that we knew weren't true. These are facts we know; we don't always know the truth about the technical information they give. We would like to have time to get you the information we have found.

A couple of points that I am particularly concerned with:

1. There are many plans 'in the works' that seem to indicate the company's plans for Minisink to be a major hub for other gas lines to connect. If they build this station, it will be followed with plans to expand it or build other facilities on the land - which will be harder to turn down since they already have the station here. Please ask for and consider all their plans, tentative plans, and other items they need to consideration. Take them into account before issuing the permit since the danger to wildlife and water quality will increase with every new project in the area.

2. There is evidence that the 'low decibel' noise from the huge engines that they will be installing is stressful not only to people but to domestic animals. I don't know if the effect on wildlife has ever been studied, but this is an important consideration. You are aware of the number of endangered species so close to the proposed site. Do we know enough about the effect of this noise to know that they won't be affected?

3. I live on a farm which is within a mile of the plant. Our farm alone has approximately 19 acres of UN-18, a Class 2 wetland as designated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYS DEC”) including a 13.2 acre portion enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program. The Tunkamoose Creek runs through our farm and much of the other land very close to the proposed project. This is a tributary to the Wallkill River. As you know, this area is one of those on the Wallkill that your department is concerned with cleaning up.

4. Our farm is certified organic. We are particularly concerned with any kind of air and water pollution since at a certain level, our certification would be revoked. The emissions, even if a low level, build up in the soil. Eventually any ground contamination will also affect the water table we rely on. (We are talking about 50 years). But beyond the financial hardship, we are trying to keep our land, livestock, streams and wetlands healthy – as free as possible of harmful chemicals. The farm has been in our family for 240 years; we don’t intend to sell it. So we are looking at long-term cumulative effects that may not be apparent for years.

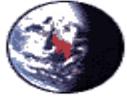
There is no reason this plant needs to be situated in an area that is residential and agricultural (and violates our zoning ordinance). NiSource/Millennium just doesn’t want to replace a 7 miles section of smaller pipe with the 30 inch pipe it has just installed for hundreds of miles on the rest of the pipeline. It will eventually have to replace it. They could do it now then build their compressor station in an industrial area that wouldn’t threaten the habitat of this ecologically sensitive and relatively unpolluted area.

Please do a full environmental study before issuing a permit and extend the comment period so that you can hear from other people in our community who have many other concerns and more knowledge that I do about the specific likely effects on the ecology of this area. I would also like to be placed on your Notification list for this permit application (deblain28@yahoo.com).

Thank you for your consideration.

Deborah Lain  
28 Keziah Lane

Westtown NY 10998



Alex Lombardo  
<alndee@optonline.net>

10/10/2011 01:13 PM

To: permitsr3es@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NIsourse permit

Re: NISOURCE PERMIT

I am writing to you regarding the permit that NISOURCE is requesting. A blanket 50 year permit for Nisource will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millennium project.

We are asking for a public hearing. We would also like to request an extension of time to file comments.

I am concerned because of the issue that the endangered Indiana Bat colonies at the proposed site will be threatened from noise, emissions, and disruption of their known summer roosting locations. There are also bald eagles nests on the property.

There are also endangered plant species on the property.

We demand a full environmental impact study be done before any permits are issued.

Please place me on you notification list.

Dolores Lombardo  
alndee@optonline.net  
237 Jacobs Rd  
Westtown, NY 10998



laureen mccrae  
<macboys02@gmail.co  
m>

10/11/2011 10:50 AM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov, laureen.mccrae@anthem.com  
cc:  
Subject: NiSource Permit Request- deny based on environmental impact

My name is David Riggin from 1959 Greenville Turnpike, Port Jervis. I live very close to Minisink and the proposed site for the Millenium Compressor Station that has requested a permit through NiSource.

The location is a known summer roosting site for the endangered Indiana Bat which would absolutely be disrupted by adding the addition of an Industrial building processing natural gas. There will be emissions from multiple 50 foot smoke stacks as well as increased noise 24/7.

In addition to serving as the roosting site for the Indiana Bat, it is also a nesting site for the Bald Eagle and the home to several endangered plants.

The Minisink area is a haven for wildlife and plants and should remain so. This station poses significant environmental risks, as well as health risks and it should not be located in a residential area and wildlife haven.

I am requesting you deny the permit request to ensure the protection of our environment and endangered species and plants. At the very least, I am asking for a Public Hearing re: the permit request and the completion of a full environmental impact assessment. Additionally, it would be appropriate to extend the comment period beyond today due to no notification to the community to respond. I understand there are almost 2,000 residents who have officially opposed this project.

You must handle this issue with extreme due dilligence that a 50 year permit approval would require. This residential community opposes this project based on negative environmental and health impacts.

David Riggin



Darcy Whyte  
<dwhyte2@optimum.net  
>

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Nisource Permit

10/11/2011 08:32 PM

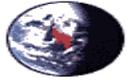
A blanket 50 year permit for Nisource will not protect the species that will be affected by the Milleniumm Project.  
I am requesting a public hearing on the issue as well as an extension on time to file comments

I am also requesting that a full environmental study be prepared.

This will affect the Indiana Bat as well as the bald eagles that nest there.

Please place me on your notification list.

Darcy Whyte  
Dwhyte2@optimum.net  
Sent from my Droid Charge on Verizon 4GLTE



AquaGem51@aol.com

10/10/2011 11:52 AM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov

cc:

Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

I am a resident of Westtown, NY. I am asking that you please decline Millennium's application for a permit that was filed. A blanket 50 year permit for Nisource will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millennium project.

I am asking for a public hearing on this matter and an extension of time to file comments as the resident of this community were not notified of the filing of this permit until a day or two ago and we would like our concerns to be heard.

IndianaBat colonies have been found on the proposed site and the threats from noise, emissions, and disruption of their known summer roosting locations is not acceptable to the residents of this community. ALSO, there is the issue of bald eagles nests on the property and of endangered plant species on the property.

**We demand a full environmental impact study be done before any permits are issued.**

I thank you for your consideration in this matter. I would like to be placed on your notification list I can be reached at the following address.

Elaina Burton  
212 Schefflers Road  
Westtown, NY 10998  
Email: Aquagem51@aol.com



Ernie Stonick  
<erniestonick@gmail.com>  
m>

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: (ITP)TE02636A

10/11/2011 01:45 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Orange County, NY in regards to NiSource application as stated above.

My concern is that providing a 50 year permit to NiSource' considering their environmental violation record, as well of those companies that are owned by NiSorce, is purely illogical.

Millennium Pipeline, Columbia Gas Transmission and ultimately NiSource, have done precious little to protect our environment and safety during construction of and operation of their gas pipeline system and related facilities.

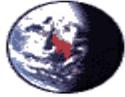
Considering their record, would it not be more prudent to demand that NiSource and it's affiliates provide guarantees and be subjected to a tighter oversight? Does it not make sense to monitor their operations more closely and to make sure that they meet or exceed requirements?

It appears that NiSource and their affiliates would much rather pay the fines associated with the violations rather than commit to protecting our environment.

I ask you to re-visit this application and deny the 50 year request, and at the very least limit it to a very short period of time, with renewals based on performance in the future.

Sincerely,

Ernie Stonick  
Westtown, NY 10998



flavia bacarella  
<flavia@frontiernet.net>

10/10/2011 11:57 AM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT (Minisink Compressor Station)

Dear Lisa Mandell, or Appropriate Official,

This letter is to request that the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Service, NOT give the permit requested by Millenium Pipeline for their project in Minisink, (Westtown, NY). This 50-year permit would devastate the wildlife in the region, most especially the Indiana Bat. The bats are already endangered regionally with white nose syndrome. But interestingly in our area, the bat is still thriving and we hope to keep it that way. Other species which would be compromised by the "incidental take" to quote the words in the application, would suffer irreparably as well.

The natural gas pipleline (compressor station) is something the residents in our area are against for a host of reasons, but especially because of the threat to already threatened wildlife: the bog turtle, Nashville crayfish, the clubshell, the fanshell and the spynymussel. In addition to these species, the bald eagle nests nearby on the property. Here we have a species that we have worked decades to protect from extinction...

I believe that the Fish and Wildlife Services should simply not give Millenium Pipeline permission and suggest that there be a public hearing. Indeed, there seems to be a rush to get these permits without adequate notification to local residents. In addition, I would like the Fish and Wildlife Service to grant an extension for comments from residents in the area and require a complete environmental study with respect to the impacts on local and endangered wildlife.

Professor Flavia Bacarella  
Lehman College

(25 year resident of Orange County)



FLAVIA BACARELLA  
<FLAVIA.BACARELLA  
@lehman.cuny.edu>

10/12/2011 04:48 PM

To: PermitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Re: Extension of Comment Period - NiSource Application under ESA

Thank you for this excellent response.

Professor Flavia Bacarella  
Chair, Art Department  
Herbert H. Lehman College  
250 Bedford Park Blvd. West  
Bronx, NY 10468  
718-960-6796

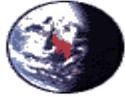
On Oct 12, 2011, at 11:48 AM, [PermitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:PermitsR3ES@fws.gov) wrote:

The public comment period for the NiSource Incidental Take Permit Application and Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been extended 60 days. The closing date for receipt of comments is December 13, 2011. The notice will publish in the Federal Register on 10-14-11.

Application and related materials are available on the FWS Web Site at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/permits/hcp/nisource/index.html>

Your comment on the Millennium Minisink compressor station has been received. However, please note that your comments on the compressor station project must be directed to the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering an application for an incidental take permit specific to endangered species. The proposed permit will not authorize pipeline activities, per se. It would use the ESA Section 10 process to consider endangered species impacts rather than compliance through the ESA Section 7 process.

Lisa Mandell  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Gary Passamonte  
<gand@optonline.net>

10/10/2011 12:30 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: MINISINK Site and Millennium Gas compressor

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention as a resident of Westtown NY the debated Millenium Gas Compressor project filed for permits through Nisource. This has to be denied or investigated further. A blanket 50 year permit for Nisource will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millennium project. Before granting permits to this dirty project be aware that there is the issue that The endangered Indian Bat colonies are at risk at the proposed site with threats from noise, emissions, and disruption of their known summer roosting locations. This location of the questionable proposed and loudly debated Millennium project is a nesting area for American Bald eagles, and endangered plant species as well. We demand a full environmental impact study be done before any permits are issued. I also ask for a public hearing, and for an extension of time for others to file comments. Millennium is being underhanded and sneaky with their approach to gaining permits without anyone knowing what they are doing. It is further proof that what they are doing poses serious threats to the wild life and citizens of our community. I would like to be placed on your notification list. Thank you... Please extend time for comments and think long and hard before granting permits to Millennium through Nisource.

Sincerely,

GARY PASSAMONTE and DOMENIC VECCHIOLI

Westtown NY



HEIDI COPPOLA  
<heidicop@optonline.net>

To: permitsr3es@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Nisource permit

10/11/2011 10:27 PM

To whom it may concern;

My name is Heidi Coppola and I am a Minisink valley resident. I write to plea for you help!. Please decline the Millennium pipeline permits. I urge you to look at the big picture with a full environmental impact study. Someone should represent and protect the species found in our land in Minisink and specifically in proposed property by Millennium. Give our community members a public hearing. Save our endangered wild life!.

Sincerely,  
Heidi Coppola  
49 Bender Road  
Westtown, NY 10998  
845 683-1207



Jessica  
<my3sonsgpk@live.com  
>

To: "permitsR3ES@fws.gov" <permitsR3ES@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE permit

10/10/2011 01:05 PM

It has just today come to my attention that Millieum Pipeline under the name of Nisource has applied to you for a permit to build a compressor station in Westtown NY. I have numerous reasons i am opposed to this, but one of them is the amazing wildlife I have seen on the property, and the property that surrounds it.

I have seen on 2 occasions over the last few months a bald eagle in the middle of a field just down the road from this site. I have been told by people who have walked the site that there are Bald Eagle nests on the site, not surprising since I have seen the eagles myself. There is no question we should be protecting the environment of that bird!

My husband hunts and I am deeply concerned about the impact the KNOWN pollutants that will be released will affect these wild animals, and how it will effect my family if they inject that meat as well as the many other families that depend on this as a food source.

There is a long list of endangered species also known to be on this site. Why in the world would the very agency meant to protect the land and the wildlife would you ever consider issuing permits....and be open for FIFTY YEARS!?!?!?

The fact that we have not had anytime or notice that this permit deadline is tomorrow is scary and frustrating. I am asking to please NOT issue the permit they have applied for, or at the very least extend the deadline date so we have more time to submit our grievances with this proposed project.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Briecke  
53 Dellwood Court  
Westtown, NY 10998

Sent from my iPad



**Joan Hoge**  
<joanhoge@yahoo.com  
>

To: "permitsR3ES@fws.gov" <permitsR3ES@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

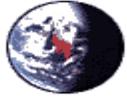
10/10/2011 03:51 PM  
Please respond to Joan  
Hoge

I would like to ask that the Fish and Wildlife Service decline the permits requested from Nisource, Inc, for the specific Millenium Project. I believe that a 50-year permit will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Project. I am concerned about the following:

- endangered Indian Bat colonies at the proposed site, and the threats from noise, emissions, and disruption of their known summer roosting locations.
- bald eagle nests on this property
- endangered plant species on the property.

I think a public hearing is more in order to address these issues and concerns. I would also like to request an extension of time in order for more people to be able to file comments.

Thank you for your consideration.



Jack Huldie  
<dojahu@optonline.net>

10/10/2011 08:42 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

The blanket fifty year permit sought by Nisource will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millennium project.

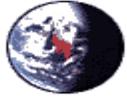
A public hearing is necessary to address the concerns raised by the proposed project. Minimally, there should be an extension of time to file comments, and there should be a full environmental impact study done before any permit is issued.

Bald eagles are at times sighted near the proposed site, and there should be check for eagles' nests.

Noise and emissions could threaten Indian bat colonies that roost in the area during the summer.

Please place me on your notification list.

Jack Huldie



John Odland  
<jna115@optonline.net>  
10/11/2011 06:53 AM

To: permitsr3es@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Minisink Gas Compressor Station Permit

To Whom This May Concern

My name is John Odland. I'm a resident of the Town of Minisink. I'm writing in regards to the permit that the Millennium Pipeline company has applied for so they can construct a gas compressor station here in the town of Minisink. I urge and beg of you to please proceed with caution in issuing this permit. This company has done everything in its power to fast track their applications without public input. I would like to add that your deadline for public comments please be extended so that the voice of our community is heard before a permit is granted.

The area proposed for this project is smack in the middle of a residential area. Besides the people who will have to walk away from their homes as a result of this project because of the impact it will have on their home values, I also have several environmental concerns I'm extremely concerned with. After moving up here 7 years ago I have become very familiar with this land and what exists here. This land has a various assortment of bird species which attract numerous bird watchers throughout the year. There is actually an easement that is owned by the Orange County Land trust that allows people to walk behind the properties so they can view the special wildlife we have. Among them is the Indiana Bat. This bat is on the brink of extinction. What impact will the noise and emissions from this gas compressor have on these bats that live and obviously feel secure in this area? What about the bald eagle? We are extremely lucky to have this rare species as many also flock my property to get a glance of, if they are lucky of course. What will the impact be on America's bird? I urge you to take the time to come our area and walk the property. Please don't take my word for it. Educate yourself on what we have here and I'm sure you'll find much to be concerned with. How am I suppose to teach my children how to respect our land and its species when there is a gas compressor station in our back yard? Our school is also 3 miles away. What example do we have for our children when it comes to land preservation? We can't preserve our own land.

I will also like to inform you of some additional information that although may not be relevant to what you need to issue your permit I do believe you have the right to know the plans this company has. Our group has spoken to the president of this company, Mr. Shields, who has informed us through his spokesperson that they intend on putting a second gas compressor station in this area. So if you believe that a 12,000 horse power compression station is not vital to this area I'd like to know what happens when the second is constructed? Unrelated there is another gas company called Iraqouis Pipeline who too will be requesting an application for a permit to build yet a third compressor station. Once this first one is allowed I can assure you this area will become a gas hub and all the wildlife around here will pay the price. Again don't take my word for it. We are a well organized community and have documentation to prove our case. We can only hope you will listen to us before making any quick decisions. That is exactly what this gas company wants you to do. They want you to make a quick decision on this first one which will then justify all the others being placed in our area. Our organic farmers will most certainly lose their organic status as their crop will be anything but organic.

I'm sorry to fill you with some details you may not be concerned with but in respects you should be. A simple permit to this company will cause a domino effect in this area that will multicast effect the wildlife in the region. You are the only hope this land has left. I urge you to uphold your oath of protecting this land and not let a gas company step foot on this precious land. Its future lay in your hands.

Respectfully  
John P. Odland  
845-683-1153  
53 Laurel Hill Drive  
Westtown, NY 1098



Janice O'Keeffe  
<[janicelynn74@yahoo.com](mailto:janicelynn74@yahoo.com)>

To: [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov)  
cc: Janice <[janicelynn74@yahoo.com](mailto:janicelynn74@yahoo.com)>  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

10/11/2011 04:11 PM

To whom it may concern:

I just today found out that Millennium Pipeline, through NISOURCE, has applied to you for environmental permits for the Minisink Project Docket # CP11-515 in Orange County, New York. In light of the fact that 10 species are in jeopardy, an environmental impact study before the permits are considered.

Issuing the permits may destroy these Endangered and Threatened species!

Are Bald Eagle nests being considered?

I would appreciate it greatly if you would put me on your notification list.

With thanks,

Janice O'Keeffe  
29 Bender Rd.  
Westtown, NY 10998  
[janicelynn74@yahoo.com](mailto:janicelynn74@yahoo.com)



JAMES PARCO  
<cavemanparco@gmail.  
com>

10/11/2011 09:25 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: MILLENIUM PROJECT PERMITS

PLEASE DO NOT GIVE MILLENIUM PERMITS TO DESTROY THE BALD EAGLE NESTS THAT WE WATCH ON A DAILY BASIS.THE TURTLES THAT WE SEE AND ALL THE OTHER PERFECT WILDLIFE. WE NEED TO DO A FULL ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT STUDY BEFORE WE LOOSE MORE OF OUR NATIONAL BIRDS.IF MILLENIUM GETS THIER WAY EVERYONE IN OUR TOWN INCLUDING WILDLIFE WILL EVENTUALLY BE SICK. PLEASE LETS STOP BIG GAS COMPANIES WHILE WE STILL CAN. WE ALSO NEED AN EXTENSION OF THIS COMMENT PERIOD, DUE TO JUST FINDING OUT THAT MILLENIUM FILED FOR A PERMIT.

THANK YOU,

MINISINK

TOWN RESIDENTS



Janet Stonick  
<janstonick@gmail.com  
>

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NiSource Permit

10/11/2011 12:52 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

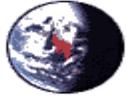
I am deeply troubled by the thought of a 50 year permit for incidental take (TE02636A). These animals and possibly plants, may have very different populations in 5 or 10 years and need much greater protection. How can a permit be issued for such an amount of time? Incidental take? Just how expansive is this? Aren't you supposed to be protecting species?

I personally feel that the comment period should be lengthened. I only found out about this yesterday.

Please review DEC violations for NiSource and any subsidiary firms that would be covered by this permit. While I believe the time frame is FAR too long, I also believe that this permit may include the Millennium Pipeline Compressor Station in Minisink, NY. Millennium has a record of carelessness where regulations are concerned that makes me doubly concerned. If the Compressor Station is covered by this permit, noise, emissions, and possible disruption of nesting sites for Indiana bats, Bald Eagles, and so on should all be taken into account.

I demand that a full environmental impact study should be done before any such lengthy permit can be issued. In the case, multiple species are involved and that gives even greater reason to do the study.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet L. Stonick



KEVIN DERR  
<kderr@optonline.net>  
10/10/2011 10:45 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Please Do Not Grant the NiSource, Inc. Incidental Take Permit Request

Attn: Lisa Mandell  
Regional Director  
Midwest Region,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Hello Ms. Mandell,

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Kevin Derr, and I am a resident of Westtown, NY. My wife and I moved to this agricultural town roughly six and a half years ago to pursue hobby farming and a quieter way of life. We are both extremely concerned about this permit request, and the larger move of Millennium Pipeline, LLC to build a gas compressor station in our little town.

Millennium Pipeline, LLC is proposing to build a gas compressor station in our agricultural valley, and this permit request from NiSource (one of Millennium's parent companies) is for the construction of this compressor station. I believe this 12,260 horsepower compressor will pollute, via emissions as well as noise, our valley and may directly impact a number of threatened and/or endangered species (including the Indiana Bat, Bog Turtle, Bald Eagle and others). Before you continue with approving this permit request, I would ask you to consider a number of topics.

First, Millennium Pipeline, LLC is attempting to fast-track the construction of this compressor station in our town, even though there is a large portion of the community openly speaking out against it. We have been told that there are options available to Millennium to obtain their needed gas flow rate, without building the compressor station, but that this alternate option is more expensive (\$43 million for the compressor station vrs. \$103 million to lay down new pipeline). It is my belief that replacing the pipeline with a larger pipe would be a far less of an impact to fish and wildlife in the area, as well as the environment and neighborhood overall. I do not believe that \$60 million dollars should stand in the way of protecting these threatened and endangered species.

Second, throughout this process there has been no Environmental Impact Study (EIS) completed. Until such a time, I would urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to hold off on granting any permits. Without a full EIS completed I do not believe a well formed decision can be made regarding the potential effects this compressor station may have on our threatened and endangered species.

Third, our community only became aware of NiSource's application for this permit today, October 10, 2011. As such, I do not believe the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will receive the number of correspondences it likely would if the community had more time to respond. Would it be at all possible to extend the time for comments, and grant us the opportunity to have more of our community learn about this filing and send in their own thoughts on this matter?

Fourth, I do not believe that there have been any Health Impact Studies

(HIS) completed on the effects of gas compressor stations. As such, until such a time that there is an HIS to reference please hold off on granting permits of any type for NiSource regarding this gas compressor station being built.

Finally, if in the event that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does move forward with granting this permit, please limit its length. Granting this permit for such a long time (50 years) is very excessive in my opinion. If in the event that an EIS or HIS is done in the future, and finds these types of compressor stations to be harmful to the environment and wildlife, I believe it will be more difficult to revoke this permit. Rather, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could grant NiSource a shorter time permit (say 5 years). This would allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the opportunity to examine any published EIS and HIS studies, and the stations impact on the native species such as the Indiana Bat and the Bald Eagle, etc. After such a review I believe U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be making a better, more well informed decision on this permit.

In conclusion, I implore you to not grant NiSource this permit, allow our residents more time to write to you and express their own concerns, and/or at the least limit any permit you may grant to be far less than 50 years.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this at all any further, feel free to reach out to me via my contact information below.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Derr  
Resident of Wsttown, NY  
A Village of Minisink Township  
(845) 551-9837



jkjflash@optimum.net

10/11/2011 01:40 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov

cc:

Subject: NiSource permit

I am writing with regard to NiSource, Inc.'s application for an incidental take permit for Millennium Pipeline's proposed Minisink Compressor Station project in Orange County, NY. I urge you to deny this incidental take permit in order to protect the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) from extinction. As you know, the Indiana Bat is a federally listed endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. It is also an endangered species in New York State, the place where Millennium Pipeline proposes to build a compression station using two 6,130-horsepower natural gas fired compressor units.

I live approximately a half-mile from the proposed compression station site located at 107 Jacobs Road in Westtown, NY. Directly behind my home is the Laurel Hill Preserve, an 89 acre protected preserve formed by the Orange County Land Trust, a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt public charity. I have personally seen Indiana Bats in this area. I am concerned about the effects of noise and air pollution on these bats, which are quite rare in New York State due to the devastating disease known as white nose syndrome..

Compression stations are known to release volatile organic compounds into the air, such as benzene, formaldehyde and styrene, among others. They also produce a loud roaring noise that can be heard three to four miles away. Such noise is constantly generated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The sound is much louder during "blowouts."

Since Indiana Bats use echolocation for navigation and hunting, the loud noises from the proposed Minisink Compression Station would have very serious, detrimental impacts on them. If the bats are subjected to loud, harassing noises on a constant basis, it will interfere with their ability to hunt for the insects it needs to survive. This could lead to their deaths, as well as to devastating crop damage in the town. In addition, loud noises from the compression station, especially during blowouts, can cause the bats to awaken during hibernation and also negatively affect their maternity roosts in the spring and summer. Please note that the town's rural ambient noise level is approximately 32dBA. The proposed sound level for the compression station is 55dBA generated 24/7. During blowouts, the sound level can reach as high as 85 to 90 dBA. Do we really want to subject the rare and endangered Indiana Bat to this level of noise?

Moreover, the area that the Indiana Bats have chosen to live in is agricultural and residential. These bats did not choose to live in an industrial zone with a compression station driving them "batty" with loud and unpleasant noises 24 hours a day. Please save the Indiana Bats of Minisink, NY!!! Do not allow NiSource and Millennium Pipeline to "take" our bats!!! Isn't it the mission of your agency to protect endangered species from environmental contaminants? Please deny this permit or at least perform a full environmental impact study before any 50 year permits are issued.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Gartenberg  
67 Laurel Hill DR  
Westtown, NY 10998



Keith Stewart  
<keithsfarm@frontiernet  
.net>

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

10/10/2011 09:25 PM

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing in opposition to the blanket 50-year permit for "incidental taking" of wildlife in the Town of Minisink. There is nothing incidental about this harm to our endangered species and wildlife in general. The project (compressor station) is inappropriate in our sensitive environment. We would like a public hearing on this permit request. And I believe that an extension of the deadline is necessary for all of our town's residents to file their objections. Most importantly an environmental impact study should be done. We know that there are many endangered species in our area, the Indiana bat, for instance; there are nearby breeding grounds for the bald eagle, and there are many plant species that would be destroyed.

Keith Stewart  
P.O. Box 297  
Westtown, NY 10998



Lisa Alliegro  
<lalliegro@optonline.net  
>

10/10/2011 03:47 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: (NISOURCE Permit ) Millennium Project- Location- Jacobs Rd  
Westtown,ny (Orange county).

To Whom May Concern,

It has come to my attention that **Nisource (Millennium pipeline)** has filed for permits to be able to build in the town of Minisink on Jacobs Road in Westtown,NY. The residents of the town have not received enough notification to plea our case and explain why this project should not happen. They are looking to put a natural gas compression station in an agricultural/ residential zone. The site itself has been known to house bald eagles nests as well as endangered Indiana Bat colonies not to mention in very close proximity to the site is livestock ( cows and horses), and organic farms. A project of this magnitude has no business in an area such as this. **Before any permits are granted, the residents of this community are demanding a full environmental study be done and in the meantime we would like a public hearing as well as an extension on the period to file comments. A blanket 50 year permit for NISOURCE will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millennium project.**

**If you have any questions or need to contact me with regards to this issue. I can be reached at 845-683-1087 or my cell is 845-325-9578..**

**Thank you,  
Lisa Alliegro  
1976 County Route One  
Westtown NY 10998**

**re:**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Fish and Wildlife Service  
[FWS-R3-ES-2011-N109; 30120-1122- 0000-F2]  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan;  
Receipt of Application for Incidental Take Permit; NiSource, Inc.**



Laurie Arias  
<lauriearias@hotmail.co  
m>

To: <permitsr3es@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Minisink/NiSource permit

10/10/2011 11:18 PM

Lisa Mandell  
Regional Director  
Midwest Region  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ms. Mandell:

I just learned that public comments could be made to the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding NiSource's application for permits under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. NiSource's subsidiary, Millennium Pipeline, intends to build a 12,000 horsepower compressor station in Minisink, New York.

I encourage you to extend the deadline for public comment. Our small community has formed a coalition, putting in hundreds of hours of research into compressor stations and the process by which they are constructed. We've learned that Millennium Pipeline (who will own 73 acres of land - about 65 more than is required) plans on putting up more stations in the area. Another natural gas company, Iroquois Pipeline, also has plans to build a compressor station in this area as per their website on the NYMARC project. The cumulative effect of three compressor stations in such a small vicinity poses a serious threat to several endangered species, most notably the Indiana bat. Compressor stations emit low frequency noise, measured in dBC. In areas where compressor stations are built, such as Brookfield, CT, there is a noticeable change in the bat population. The Indiana bat is severely affected by white noise syndrome, a white fungus that grows on afflicted bats. Because this species has a long lifespan and a low birth rate (about one offspring per year), the bat population is not expected to recover quickly. A 12,000 horsepower compressor station, emitting both high and low frequency noise in a prime roosting area presents a major roosting site disturbance. Recent research has shown that Indiana bats can establish maternity colonies in upland, wooded sites one to two miles from permanent water. The proposed compressor station site is a little over a mile away from the Walkkill River and a large area of protected wetlands. It has also come to my attention that, according to nearby landowners, there are Bald Eagle nests in the vicinity as well.

NiSource and Millennium Pipeline do have an alternative: they can replace a portion of the pipeline and open up a wider range of options for gas transmission. According to their FERC filing, this is not an option as it could "double or triple" the cost of the project. NiSource claimed \$202 million in profits last quarter alone. Granting them a 50 year permit for an "incidental take" of endangered species only serves to increase their profits at the expense of diverse ecologies.

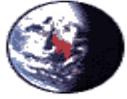
There are seven endangered species in this area, two threatened species and one proposed for listing. A blanket 50 year permit puts a tremendous burden on nearly a dozen already struggling species. Why not do an Environment Impact Study for more

careful and complete consideration, especially in an area like Minisink where there is no industry of any kind?

I urge you to exercise caution and hold a public hearing so that our community can ask questions and gather data. This compressor station is a permanent structure and it wouldn't make sense to put so many species at risk by "rubber stamping" this project. The environment and its habitants gain nothing by rushing these permits. In fact, since the DEC has "fast tracked" NiSource's permits, there is even less of a process by which these species can be protected. Holding a public hearing will, at the very least, help to disseminate information amongst all involved parties, thereby giving a "voice" to those affected who don't have the ability to "speak".

Thank you for your consideration.

Laurie Arias  
560 Lower Road  
Westtown, NY 10998  
(Westtown is within the Town of Minisink)  
845-726-3599



Leanne Baum  
<[rl199@optonline.net](mailto:rl199@optonline.net)>  
10/10/2011 12:00 PM

To: [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov)  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in reference to the permit you have received from NiSource in regards to Minisink, NY.

Please note in your consideration that a blanket 50 year permit for Nisource will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millennium project. There are various endangered species that will be affected by this project, including the Indiana Bat, Bog Turtle and others. As residents of the same neighborhood, we can attest to the presence of the bats here and their benefit to our habitat. This area is rather quiet, with very little noise or light pollution. This serves to create a safe habitat for the bats and enables them to hibernate in peace as well. Any light, noise, or heat generating devices (such as a natural gas compressor) will serve to disrupt their habitat and cause them to leave the area. There are at least 7 bat colonies in the area...can we risk disrupting their lives and habits? Please consider holding a public hearing, and/or extending the deadline for comments.

We ask that a full environmental impact study be done by NiSource and its companies before proceeding with this project or any permits are issued by any governing agencies.

Please also place us on your notification list. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert and Leanne Baum  
90 Jacobs Rd  
Westtown, NY 10998

[rl199@optonline.net](mailto:rl199@optonline.net)



Laureen  
<mam2boys@optonline.  
net>

10/11/2011 07:21 AM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NiSource Permit- Deny Request or Extend for Public Comment

Department of Fish and Wildlife-

I am against the Millennium permit filed through NiSource for the Minisink Compressor Station due to the impact it will have on our wildlife, specifically endangered species such as the Indiana Bat which has a documented population in this area.

A 50 year blanket permit will not protect our wildlife. In addition to severely impacting our environment and wildlife, the emissions, noise and inability to handle a compressor station from an Emergency Service perspective is not viable.

I am requesting you deny the permit request from NiSource on behalf of Millennium. At the very least, I am asking for a Public Hearing or an extension of the Comment period. I have 2 children with Asthma, one of whom is severely impacted and the environmental impact is too dangerous to have less than 1 mile from my home. I purchased my home in this area because of the strict zoning laws regarding industrialization and because of the beautiful wildlife and quiet community.

My expectation is that you protect our community and wildlife. Deny the permit request.

Sincerely,  
Laureen McCrae  
117 Laurel Hill Drive  
Westtown NY 10998



Mary Lou Carney  
<mlcarney3@gmail.com  
>

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: nisource permit

10/11/2011 10:43 AM

Hello I am a resident of Minisink,

I would like to request that you decline the permits for Millenium Pipeline. Further more I ask that you extend the comment period. Many of our residents are just now being notified of Millenium filing the permits. A blanket 50 year permit for NIsorce will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millenium Project. We are a rural community with many farms and woodlands with many different types of species. The proposed site of this project is home to the ENDANGERED Indian Bat colonies. They roost there in the summer and the noise and emissions will disrupt their routine. Our Bald Eagles also nest on this property and such a project will ENDANGER them. Not to mention we have endangered plant species on that property. Before any permits are given to Millenium Pipeline, we as members of this community DEMAND that a public hearing be held and a FULL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY. I also ask that you place me on your notification list.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Carney



**Malena Coluccio**  
<gorgi1028@yahoo.com>  
>

To: "permitsR3ES@fws.gov" <permitsR3ES@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: millennium gas compression station application

10/10/2011 03:10 PM  
Please respond to  
Malena Coluccio

To whom it may concern,

I am requesting that Millennium's request for a permit to build a 12,000 hp gas compression station be denied due to the delicate natural environment that exists in this area. The area is zoned agricultural and is known for its dairy farms and crops. On the property that the construction is being proposed are eagles nest and a summer roosting nest for the endangered Indiana bat. Approximately 3.5 miles from the proposed construction location is the Walkill River National Wildlife refuge. As you know, this refuge is 6000 acres and is dedicated to the protection of resting and feeding habitats of more than 250 species of birds, 40 species of mammals, and dozens of species of reptiles and amphibians. Contained within this protected area are a wide variety of wild flowers, plants and endangered species. This site is one of the few protected watersheds that still exists in Walkill Valley. Additionally, a little over four miles from the proposed site is the Pochuch Mountain State Forest. This state forest is 511 acres.

Based on estimates that I have read, both of these important wildlife habitats are well within a distance to be affected by the dangerous emissions that will be produced by this compression station. As one of the thousands of Minisink residents who have moved to this area because of its natural beauty, agricultural tradition, and rich diversity of wildlife and vegetation I ask that you help us maintain Minisink as one of the few healthy ecosystems left and reject the proposal to begin to industrialize our community by allowing this gas compression station to be built.

Sincerely, Vincent Coluccio  
75 Dellwood Court  
Westtown NY  
845-683-1131



**Malena Coluccio**  
<gorgi1028@yahoo.com  
>

To: "permitsR3ES@fws.gov" <permitsR3ES@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

10/11/2011 08:23 PM  
Please respond to  
Malena Coluccio

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident in Westtown, NY where a compressor station is being proposed. I live in an area that is zoned residential/agricultural. I have great concerns regarding this compressor station. The proposed site is located where there have been known endangered plant and animal species; one being the Indiana Bat. Even though Millennium has been advised to begin building between November and March, when the bats are in hibernation, I'm concerned that their nests will not be there for them when they return due to the construction of the compressor. Also, if they do return, the noise from the compressor station (which emits a high pitched noise), will be detrimental to the bat's sonar. Also of concern are the emissions that the compressor station will emit (benzine, tuline and formaldehyde, to name a few). How will this effect the wildlife here? This is a beautiful area filled with wonderful wildlife and plant-life. The thought of this compressor station sitting in the middle of all this amazing nature and the thought of what it will do to it, just saddens me. Please, please, please, do not grant Millennium a permit.

Sincerely,

Marie Coluccio  
75 Dellwood Court  
Westtown, NY 10998  
(845) 683-1131



Michael Mojica  
<michaelmojica@hotmail.com>

10/10/2011 11:21 AM

To: <permitsr3es@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: re: NISOURCE PERMIT

In reference to NISOURCE PERMIT currently under review with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please take the following into account:

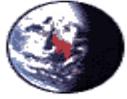
1. The NiSource Permit will have direct and immediate impact on current **FERC Docket No. CP11-515-000** under review.
2. Millennium Pipeline company (Millennium), owned by NiSource, has noted the presence of endangered Indiana Bat in my area.
  - a. Millennium is requesting approval from FERC to construct **two 52-foot stack natural gas compressors 6,130hp each** on Jacobs Rd, Westtown, NY (Town of Minisink).
  - b. Millennium is seeking to purchase 73 acres of residential/agricultural land in the middle of a residential neighborhood of 145 homes within a half-mile radius.
3. There are bird sanctuaries, organic farms, forest preserves in our area with varied animal species using these locations as their habitat.
3. Please allow for a public hearing prior to allowing for a 50-year permit to NiSource.
4. Our town residents have just been made aware of your Oct 11th deadline and would request an extension of your deadline to gather and submit information to you regarding the Indiana Bat and other creatures of our area for your consideration.
5. Specific natural gas compressor noise issues have already been submitted to FERC via eComments with video/audio included.
  - a. The pernicious hums, flutter, and high-pitch engine sounds coming from the gas compressor (such as the one in Brookfield, CT) could be devastating to the Indiana Bat as well as other wildlife in our area.
6. Please require a full Environmental Impact Statement along with Health Impact Study for the Town of Minisink area.
7. **Please note that NiSource via Millennium and Iroquois are planning at least 3 or more natural gas compressor stations for our area.**
  - a. Your blanket waiver to NiSource could have a greater negative impact for this whole region!

Please add me to your mailing list:

Michael Mojica  
180 Jacobs Rd.  
Westtown, NY 10998

(845) 726-4149

MichaelMojica@hotmail.com



**Melissa Jayne**  
<mwjayne@yahoo.com>

10/10/2011 01:41 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

I would like to ask that the Fish and Wildlife Service decline the permits requested from Nisource, Inc, for the sp  
believe that a 50-year permit will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Project. I am conce  
-- endangered Indian Bat colonies at the proposed site, and the threats from noise, emissions, and disruption of th  
locations.

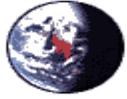
- bald eagle nests on this property
- endangered plant species on the property.

I think a public hearing is more in order to address these issues and concerns. I would also like to request an ex  
people to be able to file comments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa Jayne  
mwjayne@yahoo.com

(



**Melissa Jayne**  
<mwjayne@yahoo.com>

10/10/2011 01:37 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

I would like to ask that the Fish and Wildlife Service decline the permits requested from Nisource, Inc, for the sp  
believe that a 50-year permit will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Project. I am conce  
-- endangered Indian Bat colonies at the proposed site, and the threats from noise, emissions, and disruption of  
locations.

-- bald eagle nests on this property

-- and the endangered plant species on the property.

I think a public hearing is more in order to address these issues and concerns. I would also like to request an ex  
people to be able to file comments.



Nancy Sardo  
<nancysardo@gmail.com>  
m>

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

10/10/2011 03:47 PM

I would like to ask that the Fish and Wildlife Service decline the permits requested from Nisource, Inc, for the specific Millenium Project. I believe that a 50-year permit will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Project. I am concerned about the following:

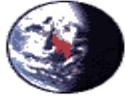
- endangered Indian Bat colonies at the proposed site, and the threats from noise, emissions, and disruption of their known summer roosting locations.
- bald eagle nests on this property
- endangered plant species on the property.

I think a public hearing is more in order to address these issues and concerns. I would also like to request an extension of time in order for more people to be able to file comments.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

***Nancy A.Sardo,ABR,SRES***  
***NYS Licensed Realtor***  
***Web: [regalinwarwick.com](http://regalinwarwick.com)***  
***Email: [nancysardo@gmail.com](mailto:nancysardo@gmail.com)***  
***Regal Homes & Properties, Inc.***  
***cell/text 914-588-7058***  
***(O) 845 986-5600***  
***(F) 845 986-5151***



Pramiila  
<[psrivas@yahoo.com](mailto:psrivas@yahoo.com)>  
10/11/2011 03:59 PM

To: [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov)  
cc:  
Subject: Fwd: RE Nisource Permit

Submitted by Pramilla Malick

In addition the nearby Walkill River Refuge is home to many rare birds. Noise and emissions from Compressor Station are known to cause an alteration in the migratory patterns of birds. I believe this must be investigated before granting any permits.

Please see:

Birds (see [bird list](#) – updated February 2011)

Many migratory birds are "funneled" through the Wallkill Valley. The Wallkill River bottomland is one of the few, large areas of high quality waterfowl habitat remaining in northwestern New Jersey. As a major watershed and wetland complex, the Wallkill River provides migratory habitat for thousands of Atlantic flyway ducks and geese such as American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Common Merganser and Canada Goose and plentiful nesting habitat for Wood Duck and Mallard.

In summer, songbirds such as the beautiful Indigo Bunting, Blue-winged Warbler, Bobolink, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Grasshopper Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, and Chestnut-sided Warbler bring color and melody to the refuge. American Kestrels can be found most years nesting in the boxes that have been placed on utility poles along roads throughout the refuge, and the "who cooks for you" call of the Barred Owl can often be heard. Great Blue Heron, Green Heron and Swamp Sparrows are perennial summer inhabitants in the refuge's wetlands. The fall migration of shorebirds (mid July to October), brings Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, waterfowl, which arrive later in the season (September-November), and numerous songbirds (late August-October) that had nested further north. Raptors are plentiful during fall migration as well, when Sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, and Broad-winged hawk can be seen in good numbers on many September days. Short-eared owls, Northern Harriers, and Rough-legged Hawks are found primarily during the winter. The Liberty Loop Trail is the best place to look for these raptor and water bird migrants and winter residents.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Pramiila <[psrivas@yahoo.com](mailto:psrivas@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** October 11, 2011 4:51:45 PM EDT  
**To:** "[permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov)" <[permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: RE Nisource Permit

I am also requesting that the public comment period be extended to allow for proper notification of relevant stakeholders including the Orange County Land Trust and the Walkill River Wildlife Refuge both of which are near the proposed Minisink Compressor

station site. Neither of which have been informed yet about this public comment period and pending application

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Pramiila <[psrivas@yahoo.com](mailto:psrivas@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** October 11, 2011 4:47:46 PM EDT  
**To:** [psrivas@yahoo.com](mailto:psrivas@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** RE Nisource Permit

I am writing to request a public hearing for the proposed Minisink Compressor Station. I am a resident living near the proposed action site and I just found out about this comment period today. I have many concerns about the dangers to endangered plant and animal species on the proposed site and do not believe a 50 year blanket permit will protect the endangered species as well as the bald eagles that nest at the location. FERC is not currently doing a full EIS and only a full EIS can ensure the safety of the wildlife at risk.

The proposed site is a known summer roosting area for the Indian Bat. The Indiana bat is migratory, hibernating in caves and mines in the winter and migrating to its summer habitat. Although some Indiana bat bachelor colonies have been observed, males and non-reproductive females typically do not roost in colonies and may migrate long distances to their summer habitat. Reproductive females may migrate great distances, up to 575 km (357 mi), to form maternity colonies to bear and raise their young.”

The DRP 2007 and 5YR 2009 indicate a high level of uncertainty associated with our understanding of Indiana bat summer and migration habitats. (USFWS, Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation, September 2009, Dept. of Interior. 18 DRP 2007)

Additional summer survey efforts and spring emergence studies will be needed in some areas, before final conclusions may be reached regarding the extent of the species' summer range. Likewise, a comprehensive analysis of existing positive and negative summer survey data is warranted. 5YR 2009, page 12.

Little information is available to determine habitat use and needs for Indiana bats during migration. Recent spring emergence telemetry studies in New York and Pennsylvania are beginning to document migratory routes in the northeast. DRP 2007, page 44. Thus intensive multi-year surveys using the latest technology are needed to identify whether and to what extent Indiana bats may use the Project area for migration and/or summer foraging or roosting.

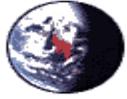
Both the 1999 DRP and 2007 DRP recognizes the importance of summer foraging

areas and migration routes for preservation of Indian bat colonies.  
"summer habitat is important to the Indian Bat". The 1999 Draft recovery plan recognized the need to conserve the Indiana Bats habitat "throughout the bat's annual cycle". The 2007 DRP reiterate and emphasizes it's concern over risks to it's "non-hibernation habitat". Such as the site proposed for this projects.

Thus in summary because if the high degree of uncertainty and risk to both nearby residents as well as endangered species such as the Indiana Bat an EIS is mandated, per NEPA requirements.

I ask that no permit be issued without a public hearing and a full EIS.

Sent from my iPad



**Pramiila**  
<[psrivas@yahoo.com](mailto:psrivas@yahoo.com)>  
10/11/2011 03:51 PM

To: "permitsR3ES@fws.gov" <[permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov)>  
cc:  
Subject: Fwd: RE Nisource Permit

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Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Pramiila <[psrivas@yahoo.com](mailto:psrivas@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** October 11, 2011 4:47:46 PM EDT  
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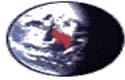
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Thus in summary because if the high degree of uncertainty and risk to both nearby residents as well as endangered species such as the Indiana Bat an EIS is mandated, per NEPA requirements.

I ask that no permit be issued without a public hearing and a full EIS.

Sent from my iPad



salvato4@optonline.net

10/11/2011 06:21 AM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov

cc:

Subject: Fwd: NISOURCE PERMIT

----- Message from salvato4@optonline.net on Tue, 11 Oct 2011 01:13:57 +0000 (GMT) -----

**To:** permitsR3ES@fws.gov

**Subject** MILLENIUM INCIDENTAL  
: TAKE

To Whom it May Concern,

It has come to my attention that Millenium Pipeline is railroading this project too quickly.

The pipeline boom has taken off with such vengeance that new updated studies to short & long term affects need to be re-evaluated. Towns around the nation are only now saying that they wish they had done more homework before allowing these projects to take place in their neighborhoods, close proximity to schools.. It affects communities and wildlife alike.

Please take some time to examine the discharge from these compressors and what it does to these already endangered or threatened species. Millenium has said numerous times that this is a first for them with building their own compressor. How can one determine its effects if it is a first for them?

Supposedly they can make it quieter, but refuse to because it will cost too much.

When will it be for the best of all concerned, the people & wildlife instead of what's best for Millenium's pockets????

Please refuse this permit!!!!!!

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Patricia Salvato

Westtown NY



salvato4@optonline.net

10/10/2011 08:13 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov

cc:

Subject: MILLENIUM INCIDENTAL TAKE

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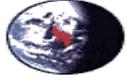
Please refuse this permit!!!!!!

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Patricia Salvato

Westtown NY



**crowe17@optonline.net**

10/11/2011 10:40 AM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov

cc:

Subject: NISOURCE PERMIT

Hello we are residents of Minisink,

We would like to request that you decline the permits for Millenium Pipeline. Further more would would appreciate it if would extend the comment period. Many of our residents are just now being notified of Millenium filing the permits. A blanket 50 year permit for NIsorce will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millenium Project. We are a rural community with many farms and wood-lands with many different types of species. The proposed site of this project is home to the ENDANGERED Indian Bat colonies. They roost there in the summer and the noise and emissions will disrupt their routine. Our Bald Eagles also nest on this property and such a project will ENDANGER them. Not to mention we have endangered plant species on that property. Before any permits are given to Millenium Pipeline, we as members of this community DEMAND that a public hearing be held and a FULL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY. We also ask that you place us on your notification list.

Thank you for your time,

Raymond and Debbie Crowe



ROSE ROSE  
FRATTELLONI  
<gems4@optonline.net>

To: permitsr3es@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NiSource Permit application (ITP) (TE02636A)

10/10/2011 01:10 PM

We are residents of Minisink, we live on Jacobs Rd, Westtown, NY, directly across from the proposed Millennium Compressor Station. We are writing to you to request that you decline the Application for Permits for NiSource, Inc. (FWS-R3-ES-2011-N109:30120-1122-0000-F2) Please be aware that a blanket 50 year permit will NOT protect the fish, wildlife and plant species that will be affected by this Millennium Project in the Town of Minisink. The species endangered to this project are the Endangered Indiana Bat Colony, the Bald Eagle nests that are existent on this property, and many other endangered & threatened species. Other threats to these species are noise, emissions and their known summer roosting in this location. There is also the matter of the endangered plant life/species on this property. Before issuing any permits to NiSource, Inc., Millennium Pipeline or any other natural gas companies, we as a community are demanding a full environmental impact study be done. We are also requesting that you extend your comment deadline to allow the residents to have ample time to comment on this matter. Please place us on your notification list. Thank you.

Leonard & Rose Frattellone  
66 Jacobs Rd  
Westtown, NY 10998  
gems4@optonline.net



sandra bonardi  
<sandybo@optonline.net>

To: permitsr3es@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Re Nisource Permit. Attn Lisa Mandell

10/11/2011 03:00 PM

Dear Ms. Mandell,

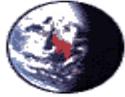
This is regarding the application from NiSource, Inc., for an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). This application was filed by Millennium Pipeline, a natural gas company, which has plans to build a 12000+ gas compression station in the middle of a rural area in Westtown, NY.

Given that there exist federally endangered Indiana bat colonies, as well as endangered bog turtles at this site, I fail to see why these permits should be issued until a full environmental impact study is undertaken by parties not affiliated in any way with the above mentioned company. Since this has not been done (in an effort to rush this project through), how do we know what other rare or endangered plant or animal species may call this site home?

Laws were put into place to protect these species. I hope that you will consider this and delay or deny this permit until the proper studies have been undertaken.

Respectfully,

Sandra Bonardi  
Director/Naturalist  
Greenbrook Sanctuary



Walter Burtchell  
<[chase9k@aol.com](mailto:chase9k@aol.com)>

10/10/2011 02:21 PM

To: [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov)  
cc:  
Subject: Nisource/Millemmium Permit application for Westtown NY.

I am a resident of Westtown, NY. I am asking that you please decline Millennium's application for a permit that was filed. A blanket 50 year permit for Nisource will not protect the species that will be affected by this specific Millennium project.

I am asking for a public hearing on this matter and an extension of time to file comments as the resident of this community were not notified of the filing of this permit until a day or two ago and we would like our concerns to be heard.

Indiana Bat colonies have been found on the proposed site and the threats from noise, emissions, and disruption of their known summer roosting locations is not acceptable to the residents of this community. ALSO, there is the issue of bald eagles nests on the property and other endangered plant /species on the property.

**We demand a full environmental impact study be done before any permits are issued.**

I thank you for your consideration in this matter. I would like to be placed on your notification list I can be reached at the following address.

Mr. Walter Burtchell  
110 Hickory Lane  
Westtown, NY 10998  
[Chase9k@aol.com](mailto:Chase9k@aol.com)



**Donna Taney/R5/FWS/DOI**  
11/30/2011 06:53 AM

To: Robyn Niver/R5/FWS/DOI@FWS, Lisa  
Mandell/R3/FWS/DOI@FWS  
cc  
bcc

Subject: Fw: Say NO to Compressor Station in Town of Minisink

----- Forwarded by Donna Taney/R5/FWS/DOI on 11/30/2011 07:52 AM -----



**Jill Lindner**  
<jillll@optimum.net>  
11/29/2011 01:57 PM

To: northeast@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Say NO to Compressor Station in Town of Minisink

This letter is for Robyn Niver 607-753-9334 - Endangered Species Unity  
New York Field Office and Lisa Mandell 612-713-5343

Please DO NOT grant Millennium, and their parent company NiSource, a 50  
year endangered species permit. Please deny the permit and force  
Millennium/NiSource to use other avenues. The Town of Minisink wants a  
site survey that covers the actually property not one that was done in  
2006!

Thank you  
Jill Lindner



**Donna Taney/R5/FWS/DOI**  
11/30/2011 06:53 AM

To: Robyn Niver/R5/FWS/DOI@FWS, Lisa  
Mandell/R3/FWS/DOI@FWS

cc

bcc

Subject: Fw: Say NO to Compressor Station in Town of Minisink

----- Forwarded by Donna Taney/R5/FWS/DOI on 11/30/2011 07:52 AM -----



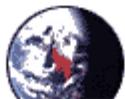
**Jill Lindner**  
<jillll@optimum.net>  
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Millennium/NiSource to use other avenues. The Town of Minisink wants a  
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2006!

Thank you  
Jill Lindner



jon pope  
<jonpope@gmail.com>

12/13/2011 09:26 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Minisink Compressor Station

**Regional Director, Midwest Region**  
Attn: Lisa Mandell  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services

Dear Lisa Mandell,

To approve a permit for the Minisink compressor station is appalling. This is pre-approving a set of environmental catastrophes that can not be undone.

Thank you

Jon Pope



pramilla srivastava  
<psrivas@yahoo.com>  
12/13/2011 09:14 PM

To: PermitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Re: Extension of Comment Period - NiSource Application under ESA

Ms. Mandell:

It is my understanding that this permit would include the proposed gas compressor station project in Minisink NY at least in regards to impact on endangered species.

did submit a comment with that presumption, but I stand behind the same argument for all projects included in the permit.

Thank You

--- On **Wed, 10/12/11, PermitsR3ES@fws.gov** <*PermitsR3ES@fws.gov*> wrote:

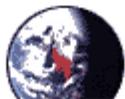
From: PermitsR3ES@fws.gov <PermitsR3ES@fws.gov>  
Subject: Extension of Comment Period - NiSource Application under ESA  
To: lalliegro@optonline.net, deblain28@yahoo.com, gorgi1028@yahoo.com, chase9k@aol.com, mwjayne@yahoo.com, alndee2@optimum.net, alndee@optonline.net, gems4@optonline.net, my3sonsgpk@live.com, gand@optonline.net, rnl99@optonline.net, flavia@frontiernet.net, AquaGem51@aol.com, michaelmojica@hotmail.com, heidicop@optonline.net, cavemanparco@gmail.com, dwhyte2@optimum.net, gorgi1028@yahoo.com, janicelynn74@yahoo.com, psrivas@yahoo.com, sandybo@optonline.net, akdwoman@yahoo.com, erniestonick@gmail.com, jkjaflash@optimum.net, janstonick@gmail.com, macboys02@gmail.com, mlcarney3@gmail.com, crowe17@optonline.net, dlb2@optimum.net, dahonkala@yahoo.com, mam2boys@optonline.net, jna115@optonline.net, salvato4@optonline.net, lauriearias@hotmail.com, kderr@optonline.net, cpetschler@hotmail.com, keithsfarm@frontiernet.net, dojahu@optonline.net, joanhoge@yahoo.com, nancysardo@gmail.com  
Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 2:48 PM

The public comment period for the NiSource Incidental Take Permit Application and Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been extended 60 days. The closing date for receipt of comments is December 13, 2011. The notice will publish in the Federal Register on 10-14-11.

Application and related materials are available on the FWS Web Site at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/permits/hcp/nisource/index.html>

Your comment on the Millennium Minisink compressor station has been received. However, please note that your comments on the compressor station project must be directed to the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering an application for an incidental take permit specific to endangered species. The proposed permit will not authorize pipeline activities, per se. It would use the ESA Section 10 process to consider endangered species impacts rather than compliance through the ESA Section 7 process.

Lisa Mandell  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



pramilla srivastava  
<psrivas@yahoo.com>

12/13/2011 08:56 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Fwd: Eagle/Nisource Permit

December 13, 2011

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services

Attn: Lisa Mandell

5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990

Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

Email: permitsR3ES@fws.gov

Dear Ms. Mandell:

I am writing to express my strong objection to the Nisource 50 year incidental take permit which is expected to include the Millennium Pipeline Compression Station proposed in Minisink NY. **I am also requesting a full public hearing to examine the scope and impact of this project with testimony from local residents on presence of endangered and threatened species and the compounded and potential cumulative environmental risks in each project area.**

As you may already be aware the proposed location in Minisink is a known summer roosting area for the Endangered Indian Bat, with documented presence in close proximity to the planned construction site. You may, however, not be aware that there is also the documented presence of Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles, including a nest very close to the project right of way. They are not on the incidental take list submitted by Nisource.

Thus I would like to know if FWS conducted a field survey to assess the presence of these protected species, or the presence of critical habitat, and if FWS has examined the full range of possible adverse impacts on protected wildlife within 5 miles of the site.

Please note the following:

The procedure for investigating summer bat habitat is already well defined. Presently the accepted method to is to systematically survey the area in question with mist nets between June 7 and August 1. (The USFWS recommends netting between May 15-August 15, but in the ridge top environment a shorter season may be more suitable due to weather extremes.) <http://www.batmanagement.com/Ordering/windfarm/wind.html>

I also feel that FWS cannot properly assess impact to these species and their habitat without full disclosure as to the scope of projects being proposed. For eg. the residents of Minisink NY have discovered that Millennium a subsidiary of Nisource has substantial expansion plans for the area which include more compressors, connections to other pipelines, as well as connection and gas supply to a major power plant project slated for a nearby town. All of these projects have been segmented to evade evaluation of the total environmental impact to the entire area. The connection to the power plant is very significant because it would mean 24 hours a day 7 days a week, 12 months a year air contamination.

As you may know, the Indiana Bat is even more endangered when originally listed due to white-nosed syndrome. I therefore feel no project affecting its critical habitat should be allowed approval.

Please note comment from a recent article:

Scientists estimate that 33,000 to 111,000 bats will die each year by 2020 just in the mountainous region of the mid-Atlantic Highlands. The study, published in the March "Science" magazine, estimates the bats save the U.S. agricultural industry at least \$3 billion a year.

"People often ask why we should care about bats," said Paul Cryan, a U.S. Geological Survey research scientist and one of the study's authors. "This analysis suggests that bats are saving us big bucks by gobbling up insects that eat or damage our crops. It is obviously beneficial that insectivorous bats are patrolling the skies at night above our fields and forests — these bats deserve help."

[http://articles.dailyamerican.com/2011-12-12/news/30510151\\_1\\_wind-turbines-indiana-bat-guidelines](http://articles.dailyamerican.com/2011-12-12/news/30510151_1_wind-turbines-indiana-bat-guidelines)

**I am also very concerned about the tree clearing permit issued by FWS to Millennium/Nisource and am requesting that it be rescinded.**

As maternity colonies are believed to roost in the area, adverse impact on pregnant or lactating bats will have untold consequences for total bat populations. Please see report below by [http://environment.transportation.org/pdf/wildlife\\_ecosystems/Programatic%20Agreement.pdf](http://environment.transportation.org/pdf/wildlife_ecosystems/Programatic%20Agreement.pdf)

Please note that according to this study, "minimal impact" to the bat would mean clearing less than 10 trees in known roosting areas, but NONE, in known maternity colony areas. It is my understanding that since the Minisink project intends to clear several acres, much more than 10 trees will be cut. Thus this project will not have "minimal impact", but rather "significant" impact on bat populations. Although the report refers to a project in Ohio the same rationale applies here.

pg 24 ODOT and FHWA have determined that the majority of projects with minimal environmental impacts are not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat. "Minimal environmental impacts" are defined as projects that clear 10 or fewer potential Indiana bat roost trees and no potential maternity roost trees in the West and Central Management Units, and projects that clear 20 or fewer potential Indiana bat roost trees and no potential maternity roost trees in the North East, East, and South Management Units. These projects will not alter the essential character, function, or suitability of the area for the Indiana bat.

Moreover the proposed project will undoubtedly alter the critical summer habitat of the bats:

Female Indiana bats have shown strong site fidelity to both their summer maternity grounds and specific roost trees, and will use suitable roost trees in consecutive years, if they remain standing and have sloughing bark (Gardner et al. 1991; Callahan et al. 1997; Kurta and Murray 2002). Traditional summer areas are essential to the reproductive success of local populations. It is not known how long or how far female Indiana bats will search to find new roosting habitat if their traditional roost habitat is lost or degraded. If they are required to search for new roosting habitat, it is assumed that this effort places additional stress on pregnant females at a time when fat reserves are low or depleted and they are already stressed from the energy demands of migration.

It is unknown how many roosts are critical to the survival of a colony, but the temporary nature of the use of the roost trees dictates that several must be available in an area if the colony is to return to the same area and raise their young successfully. Indiana bats require many roost trees to fulfill their needs during the summer (Callahan et al. 1997). In Michigan, Indiana bats used two to four different roost trees during the course of one season (Kurta and Williams 1992). In Missouri, each colony used between 10-20 roost trees, and these were not widely dispersed (all within a circle ranging in size from 0.81 to 1.48 km) (Miller et al. 2002). The important factor associated with roost trees is their ability to protect individuals from the elements, and to provide thermal regulation of their environment. Maternity colonies have at least one primary roost, which is generally located in an opening or at the edge of a forest stand. Maternity colonies also use multiple alternate roosts which are located in the open or in the interior of forest stands.

I thus implore you to rescind the tree clearing permit in its entirety until the impact on the summer habitat of maternity colonies as well as male/female roosting and foraging areas can be determined.

I believe that this project will cause permanent and irreparable harm to the Indiana bat as well as all the wildlife in the area, because a gas compression station emits a very high amount of air pollutants known to be harmful to the Indiana bat. Please read from the same report.

Bioaccumulation of environmental contaminants is suspected as a potential factor in the decline of the Indiana bat (USFWS 1999). Organochlorine insecticides became widely used after World War II; they are neurotoxic, synthetic chemicals of which many are resistant to metabolism in mammals (O'Shea and Clark 2002). Organochlorine insecticides may have resulted in chronic mortality of Indiana bats (O'Shea and Clark 2002). For example, guano collected from an Indiana bat roost in Indiana, in the 1970s, had concentrations of dieldrin in their guano comparable to the levels found in colonies of gray bats that suffered mortality from dieldrin poisoning (O'Shea and Clark 2002). Schmidt et al. (2002) measured levels of **Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)** and organochlorine pesticides in surrogate bat Ohio Department of Transportation July 2006  
Federal Highway Administration

- 24 -

species to ascertain potential effects to the Indiana bat. At low concentrations, these chemicals cause cancer and cellular mutations in mammals, and may affect reproductive success by reducing viability of gametes or offspring

[http://environment.transportation.org/pdf/wildlife\\_ecosystems/Programatic%20Agreement.pdf](http://environment.transportation.org/pdf/wildlife_ecosystems/Programatic%20Agreement.pdf)

Once again this station will be emitting especially high amounts of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons into the air and water of these roosting sites.

Please see below a report on the variety of chemicals that will be emitted by this station and how they impact the environment. Following that is a detailed explanation of exactly what Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons are.

- By the sponsor's own admission the station would continually emit volatile organic compounds

Volatile organic compounds evaporate easily from the chemicals used in drilling and fracking, as well as from the extracted gas. In Fort Worth, Texas, in the Barnett Shale, natural gas storage tanks and compressors are thought to have as great a negative impact on air quality and be as great a cause of the increasing smog as all automotive traffic in the Metroplex. Recent video footage taken by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality using an infrared camera clearly shows fugitive hydrocarbon emissions billowing from storage tanks. Storage tanks are designed for a certain legally-permitted amount of leakage. In the small town of DISH, Texas, where numerous pipelines and compressor stations have been built in recent years, there has been a corresponding die-off of trees, livestock have died of mysterious causes, and humans are developing a range of unusual medical problems.

Natural gas burning power plants are major air polluters, releasing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur oxides, fine particulate matter, ammonia, volatile organic compounds and a long list of toxic and hazardous air pollutants, such as lead, mercury, benzo(a)pyrene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. A single 1,000 MW gas plant can legally release over 3 million pounds of regulated air pollutants a year, including 40 pounds of lead, 28 pounds of mercury and over 33,000 pounds of hazardous air pollutants, many of which cause cancer. This doesn't count CO<sub>2</sub>, since CO<sub>2</sub> isn't yet regulated. As little as 0.002 pounds of mercury deposited annually into a 20-acre lake can contaminate fish to a level where they're unsafe to eat.

Below are more reports describing the range of chemicals that will be released into the atmosphere affecting critical wildlife habitat.

## **Oil and Gas Production Phase Impacts**

**Environmental impacts that could occur during the production phase would mostly occur from long-term habitat change within the oil or gas field, production activities (including facility component maintenance or replacement), waste management (e.g., produced water), noise (e.g., from well operations, compressor or pump stations, and vehicles and equipment), the presence of workers, and potential spills.**

Typical activities during the production phase include: operation of wells and **compressor stations** or **pump stations**, **waste management**, and maintenance and replacement of facility components. Potential impacts from these activities are presented below, by the type of affected resource.

### **Air Quality**

The primary emission sources during the production phase would include compressor and pumping station operations, vehicle traffic, production well operations, separation of oil and

gas phases, and on-site storage of oil. Emissions would include **volatile organic compound (VOCs)**, **nitrogen oxides**, **sulfur dioxide**, **carbon monoxide**, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, **polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)**, **hydrogen sulfide**, **particulates**, ozone, and **methane**. Venting or flaring of **natural gas** (methane) may occur during oil production, well testing, oil and gas processing, cavitation, well leaks, and pipeline maintenance operations. Methane is a major **greenhouse gas**.

<http://teeic.anl.gov/er/oilgas/impact/prod/index.cfm>

Fires can form fine PAH particles. They bind to ash particles and can move long distances through the air. Some PAHs can dissolve in water. PAHs can enter groundwater from ash, tar, or creosote that is improperly disposed in landfills.

### **HOW ARE PEOPLE EXPOSED TO PAHs?**

**Breathing:** Most people are exposed to PAHs when they breathe smoke, auto emissions or industrial exhausts. Most exhausts contain many different PAH compounds. People with the highest exposures are smokers, people who live or work with smokers, roofers, road builders and people who live near major highways or industrial

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/chemfs/fs/pah.htm>

Please be informed that the Millennium Project planned for Minisink will be a large scale heavy industrial use facility.

The issue of constant noise has also not been addressed. This station will produce constant both low frequency noise as well as high frequency noise and vibrations. Bats are very sensitive to hearing and acoustical clutter can disrupt roosting and foraging activities. See report of Tennessee Power plant project that acknowledges the issue of noise:

Other elements that could directly impact Indiana bats include noise associated with construction and maintenance of the TL, timing of forest clearing, and smoke from burning woody debris.

<http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/byrdstown/fonsi.pdf>

Please note the following noise of compressor stations.

### **Acoustics (Noise)**

The main sources of noise during the production phase would include compressor and **pumping stations**, producing wells (including occasional flaring), and vehicle traffic. Compressor stations produce noise levels between 64 and 86 dBA at the station to between 58 and 75 dBA at about 1 mile (1.6 **kilometers**) from the station. Use of remote telemetry equipment would reduce daily traffic and associated noise levels within the **oil and gas field** area. The primary impacts from noise would be localized disturbance to wildlife, recreationists, and residents. Noise associated with **cavitation** is a major concern for landowners, livestock, and wildlife.

IN SUMMARY: A BLANKET 50 YEAR PERMIT IS TOO BROAD AND TOO LONG OF A TIME PERIOD TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES. EACH PROJECT MUST BE EXAMINED INDIVIDUALLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. PUBLIC HEARINGS MUST BE HELD IN EACH PROJECT AREA TAKING TESTIMONY FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS, WILDLIFE ENTHUSIASTS, AND LOCAL EXPERTS REGARDING THE PRESENCE OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES AND OTHER LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES THAT CREATE CUMULATIVE ADVERSE IMPACTS.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ENCLOSED IS AN EMAIL FROM A NEIGHBOR DOCUMENTING THE PRESENCE OF BALD EAGLES IN THE JACOBS RD AREA. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL SIGHTINGS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS BY MANY RESIDENTS. MANY WHO HAVE TAKEN PHOTOS AS WELL.

IN CLOSING I URGE FWS TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS WITHIN LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF THE PROJECT AREAS, TO CLOSELY EXAMINE FUTURE EXPANSION PLANS, AND FACTORS CREATING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS.

Thank You

Pramilla S. Malick  
264 Jacobs Rd  
Westtwn NY 10998  
Minisink Environmental

--- On Tue, 12/13/11, Minisink Valley <[stopmcs@gmail.com](mailto:stopmcs@gmail.com)> wrote:

From: Minisink Valley <[stopmcs@gmail.com](mailto:stopmcs@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Fwd: Eagle  
To: "pramilla srivastava" <[psrivas@yahoo.com](mailto:psrivas@yahoo.com)>  
Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 9:48 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **thomas salamone** <[tsalamone@me.com](mailto:tsalamone@me.com)>  
Date: Mon, Dec 12, 2011 at 8:28 AM  
Subject: Eagle  
To: Michael Mojica <[michaelmojica@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelmojica@hotmail.com)>, John Odlan <[jna115@optonline.net](mailto:jna115@optonline.net)>, Laurie Arias <[lauriearias@hotmail.com](mailto:lauriearias@hotmail.com)>, Carolyn Petschler <[cpetschler@hotmail.com](mailto:cpetschler@hotmail.com)>, Primilla <[stopmcs@gmail.com](mailto:stopmcs@gmail.com)>, KEVIN DERR <[kderr@optonline.net](mailto:kderr@optonline.net)>

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[www.stopmcs.org](http://www.stopmcs.org)

Twitter: @stopmcs

FB: [www.facebook.com/pages/Stop-the-minisink-compressor-station](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stop-the-minisink-compressor-station)



photo.JPG



What's for Dinner?  
**WESTTOWN**  
**PIZZA**  
and more  
1000 S. CHERRY ST. - 1000

40



Janice O'Keeffe  
<[janicelynn74@yahoo.com](mailto:janicelynn74@yahoo.com)>  
om>

To: [permitsR3ES@fws.gov](mailto:permitsR3ES@fws.gov)  
cc: Janice <[janicelynn74@yahoo.com](mailto:janicelynn74@yahoo.com)>  
Subject: Minisink, NY ...NiSource proposal

12/13/2011 07:35 PM

Janice O'Keeffe  
29 Bender Rd.  
Westtown, NY 10998  
845-726-4464  
[janicelynn74@yahoo.com](mailto:janicelynn74@yahoo.com)

Dear Ms. Lisa Mandell,

I am writing to you regarding the proposal from NiSource for a 50 year permit.

I am a high school Biology and Earth Science teacher; I'm extremely concerned about the effects on the Indiana Bat population, the Bald Eagle population, approximately 100 species that are in question and when envisioning the next 50 years...other species that will be in this location. After doing my research I do not think that the potential local and total impacts have been identified. This goes against the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act! You must already be aware of all the Civil Penalties that NiSource has been charged with. I won't go into detail about their own policies that they repeatedly did not follow.

Much more detailed information about the potential impact of each endangered and threatened species is required before this proposal can be considered!

50 years is much too long if the goal is to be responsible and protect these species!

I also strongly believe that the area under this permit is much too large. It should be limited to the gas compressor station site, the right of way and the storage fields.

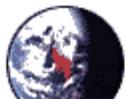
Also, if NiSource continues to deny information to you about locations and expansion plans, I ask that you require that information in order for this application to be considered.

I noticed that NiSource did not properly explain worst case consequences. An explosion is a real possibility. There was another one on the news just a few weeks ago in PA.

I implore you to deny this proposal as it is currently written.

Thank you for your dedication to wildlife.

Sincerely,  
Janice O'Keeffe



**Jack Huldie**  
<dojahu@optonline.net>

12/13/2011 07:30 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Millennium Compression Station

Please reject the broad permit Millennium in seeking, and please do not grant the long duration of the blanket permit.

Indiana bats roost at the proposed site, and the noise and pollutants would be harmful to their habitat.

Bald eagles are often sighted near the development site, and there well could be nests on the property.

Thank you,  
Jack Huldie



Malena  
<gorgi1028@yahoo.com  
>

To: "permitsR3ES@fws.gov" <permitsR3ES@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Proposed Minisink Compressor Station

12/13/2011 07:11 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Several months ago I wrote to your office and requested that you deny a permit to Millennium to build a compressor station in Minisink, NY due to this sites close proximity to the Delaware Watershed Preserve and the Pochuck Mountain State Forest. I am concerned about the effect that the emissions from this proposed station will have on these two important and fragile ecosystems.

Additionally, the Indiana Bat roosts on the site of the proposed Compressor Station. As you are aware, the Indiana Bat is in even more danger of becoming extinct due to the White Nose Syndrome. The placement of this compressor station in a known roosting site will be extremely dangerous to an already vulnerable species.

There are also numerous organic farms in our town and I am concerned with the effects the compressor station will have on livestock and produce.

Based on all the information I have read about the effects compressor stations have on our environment and Millenium's safety record, I believe this station will cause significant damage to our local environment and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Vince Coluccio  
75 Dellwood Court  
West town, NY 10998

Sent from my iPad



Deborah Lain  
<deblain28@yahoo.com>  
>

To: "permitsR3ES@fws.gov" <permitsR3ES@fws.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: NiSource permit applicaiton re: Minisink, New York

12/13/2011 02:39 PM  
Please respond to  
Deborah Lain

Regional Director, Midwest Region  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services  
Attn: Lisa Mandell

I am writing again with more information regarding the NiSource application to allow its compressor station to be built in Minisink, and for a 50 year permit for any future work they do.

First, I also ask you to please not give a blanket permit to NiSource to be trusted to protect fish and wildlife itself, without your agency studying the specifics of the area. You know better than I that there is constant change to the species that are endangered as well as new understandings of what is required to protect them. If NiSource doesn't have to apply for every specific area, but can do what they believe is enough, their actions could be harmful and irreversible before anything could be done to stop them, or possibly before it was even known to be a problem. Even with the best intentions, they are not as knowledgeable as you are. The community to be affected, who know the area best, would have no one to appeal to in order to protect what they believe to be endangered.

In the case of Minisink, I would like to raise other concerns. Many are from understanding better the potential problems of Low Frequency Noise. The Indiana bats live in the wooded area from the proposed site of the compressor station to the edge of the woods where the pipeline comes onto the fields of our farm – about a mile from the proposed site. It is not just construction of the station that could interrupt their hibernation. The LFN along that section of the pipeline, from what I understand, will be very high both from the station itself as well as from the 30 inch pipeline because the pipeline is so close to the station. It seems that bats would be sensitive to this noise and since the station will be operating all winter, there is a good probability that it would interrupt their hibernation. Unless studies have shown that it doesn't, I suggest that it be researched before the station is built, before taking the chance that these bats won't survive.

Another potential problem with the LFN is the effect on animals – both wild

and domestic. While most of the research has been done in other countries, it seems clear that LFN causes health problems in animals as well as people.

There is a lot of wildlife in the woods surrounding the compressor station. These woods are one of the largest wooded areas in our town and because we used to be much more rural, many animals have moved to this wooded area to live. Many of them could be very sensitive to LFN. In addition to the danger from LFN, the prevailing wind blows from the station toward our farm. The compressor smokestacks are at a level that appears to be just a little higher than the hills along the pipeline so that this recently-cleared pipeline would funnel much of the emissions from the station through this wooded area (and directly to our organic farm). Whatever harmful chemicals are released would affect this woodland more than other areas around the station.

There is also a sanctuary for animals a little more than a mile from the proposed site. Nearly 1,000 animals live there, most of them were neglected, abused or unwanted and are in various stages of recovery. Besides a large herd of horses and camels, there are a large number of rare and/or exotic species. It's possible some may be on the endangered list but even if not, many of them would most likely be harmed by the LFN. The elephant, in particular, would hear LFN very clearly and, I believe, it would be very stressful to it. I don't have a list of the animals that are at the Sanctuary. This is one reason why we would like a full impact study done before the site is approved.

I don't know that we could continue to raise cattle on our farm. My understanding is that the LFN wouldn't come solely from the compressor station, but from the pipeline itself because the compression would be so close to the farm. It's essential for organic cattle to be healthy. The stress reactions LFN gives them result in major health problems – everything from fertility to weight loss to deformed calves. This could be a problem even greater than compromising the organic nature of our land, necessary to maintain our organic certification.

Another concern I have about the LFN is an historic house, which is on the New York State List of Historic Buildings, that we have on our farm located about 100 yards from the pipeline that runs through our fields. This house was built in 1785 from limestone, held together with limestone slaking. In

the 225 years since, the stones haven't moved. There are no cracks. But depending on the LFN level, the vibrations could weaken the 225 year old slaking. If the stones began to move, the integrity of the building would be threatened. If this house collapsed, the loss wouldn't be something that could be compensated for. It couldn't be undone.

I have been told that FERC doesn't consider affects of LFN because Congress hasn't added it the list of items it should cover when deciding whether to approve applications. I hope that you will raise the issue because I think it's clearly a health issue – for birds, wildlife, other animals and humans – and someone needs to raise it.

In case you aren't aware, there are other sites that would be workable both for this station and the other connections the company plans to make for the pipeline here. (These connections and their further affect on the endangered species and all the other danger the plant poses at this particular site wouldn't be anything you would be aware of if NiSource got it's 50 year permit so I ask you to think of them also as you consider their application.) The alternatives would not, we believe, cause nearly as much environmental damage or all the other losses we fear. We aren't standing in the way of being able to ship gas to the areas that need it. We are just asking that they not put the station in a totally inappropriate and unnecessary location. I am asking that you consider their application with that in mind. I don't know where else to raise these concerns that FERC can't, as I understand it, take into account.

Please also place me on your list for notification on this permit application – [deblain28@yahoo.com](mailto:deblain28@yahoo.com).

Thank you for your consideration.

Deborah Lain  
28 Keziah Lane  
Westtown NY 10998  
845-726-4409

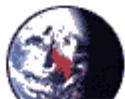


**JAMES PARCO**  
<cavemanparco@gmail.  
com>

12/12/2011 07:46 PM

To: permitsR3ES@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: MINISINK COMPRESSOR STATION

A BLANKET 50 YEAR PERMIT TO LET MILLENIUM PIPELINE DO WHATEVER THEY WANT IS AN ABSOLUTE DISGRACE. IF THIS PERMIT IS GIVEN THE WILDLIFE THAT WILL BE DESTROYED WOULD BE VERY HARD TO DEAL WITH. YEARS FROM NOW IT WILL BE SAID OF HOW EVERYONE INVOLVED DROPPED THE BALL ON THIS. THE INDIANA BAT ROOSTS IN THAT VERY AREA. PEOPLE COME TO SEE IF THEY CAN CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE MANY BALD EAGLES IN THE AREA. PLEASE LOOK AT THIS A LITTLE BETTER AND INSTEAD OF GIVING BIG BUSINESS MORE OF WHAT THEY WANT LET THE CREATURES THAT ARE THERE REMAIN UNHARMED FOR A CHANGE.



Leanne Baum  
<rl99@optonline.net>

12/08/2011 09:13 AM

To: permitsR3Es@fws.gov  
cc:  
Subject: NiSource Permit

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to ask you to either deny NiSource's permit outright or to hold a public hearing. I live in Minisink, NY, directly across from land proposed for a compressor station by Millennium Pipeline LLC. As you may know, NiSource is the parent company for this LLC. The blanket 50 year permit would cover our area and the project (s) slated for this area.

The reckless nature of this company has been exposed by many, but I would like to point out that direct observation of this particular area has shown both Indiana bat and bald eagle populations in close proximity to the project site.

A permit for incidental take can not serve either of these species well. Both are extremely susceptible to even subtle changes in the environment and landscape. "Incidental take" in Minisink alone could serve to decimate the existing population of either of these species! Only imagine what a blanket permit for 15 states could achieve!

I am including with this letter a picture taken by a friend of mine from her car. This was taken on October 28 2011, only 1/4 mile from my home and the proposed pipeline activity. The picture clearly shows an immature bald eagle. Given its known existence in this area, can the US FWS risk that there are not more protected and/or endangered species along NiSource's network of pipelines and infrastructure?

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Leanne Baum  
90 Jacobs Road



Westtown, NY 10998 IMG959537.jpg

