

October 28, 2002

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

You have been asked by the Department of Commerce (DOC) to submit comments concerning an administrative appeal brought by the Millennium Pipeline Company regarding the New York State Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).

I am writing on behalf of the United Communities of Westchester (UCW), a non-partisan group with members across Westchester County, New York. Our group opposes the portion of the route of the Millennium Pipeline across the Hudson River and through Westchester County, known as the ConEd/ Taconic Offset route. We are opposed to this specific route because it poses dire risks with disproportionate consequences to the citizens and environment of Westchester County and New York City.

The New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) clearly substantiates in their brief dated October 16, 2002, that this project is not essential to the energy needs of the State of New York.

While Millennium's application portrays its pipeline as the sole natural gas supply pipeline available to serve the metropolitan New York market, it clearly is not. The 2002 New York State Energy Plan notes that there are a total of 11 natural gas projects, including Millennium, that have been proposed to serve the New York metropolitan region. The Millennium project is of no greater importance than any other pipeline project. Yet, Millennium is the only project that seriously destroys coastal resources and impacts the New York City water supply.

The purpose of the Millennium pipeline is to bring gas for the benefit of New York City. Yet ironically, it is the intended beneficiary itself that vehemently opposes this route due to the substantial adverse impact to its fresh drinking water supply. Ensuring the quality and continued flow of water to New York City and the adjoining region is of vital importance to the State of New York.

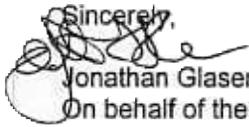
The briefs submitted by the New York State Department of State, New York City, Town of Cortlandt, and the Villages of Croton-on-Hudson and Briarcliff Manor clearly demonstrate that the pipeline would have severe impacts on the Coastal Zone:

1. Permanent and substantial impacts to Haverstraw Bay, an irreplaceable estuarine ecosystem, from dredging and blasting of this previously undisturbed portion of the Hudson River.
2. Extensive blasting of the solid bedrock along the Con Ed transmission towers that threatens the power supply to 40 % of New York City and Westchester County, and will threaten residents with loss of life and home, as well as cause significant inhalation impacts from air borne dioxin.
3. The pipeline path severely impedes the Radiological Emergency Evacuation Plan for the Indian Point Nuclear power plant by crossing all major arteries that comprise the evacuation road system.
4. Construction in the New Croton Reservoir, an unfiltered drinking water source for New York City and Westchester County, violates the Clean Water Act by adding phosphorous to this already stressed portion of the Watershed.
5. Direct impacts to Croton-on-Hudson's well field and water supply, and interference with plans for future drinking water well installation.

6. Destruction of portions of the Jane E Lytle Memorial Arboretum and of wetlands in the Croton River Gorge, immediately upstream of the Croton River and Bay Significant Habitat zone.
7. Rupture of the Bryn Mawr Siphon losing millions of gallons of water and severing the water supply to New York City and Westchester County.

Therefore, it is abundantly clear that the main benefit of the Millennium Project, that of increased gas to New York City, clearly does not outweigh the disproportionate impacts that the proposed route will cause to New York State. Since the Millennium pipeline is not an important or unique pipeline, great deference should be given to the State's right to determine whether a project is inconsistent with the State's Coastal Management program.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Glaser

On behalf of the United Communities of Westchester
14 Westminster Drive
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

As a citizen of Huron & frequent user of the nature preserve, I find Barnes' proposed abuse of the water & preserve to be repulsive, well unnecessary

This is a cost savings play, if not an circumventive 1st step to future development by Barnes, Cedar Fair, & Murray. Cedar Fair Co & the Murays would have no interest in irrigating Barnes' plants, so ~~they~~ their reported interest in the project puzzles me. They wisely distanced themselves when the ----- hit the fan, but their initial interest combined w/ the natural attraction of the property condos/w/ marina concerns me

Let's assume there are marina plans as Barnes asserts at that point, & nevertheless is a cost-savings play, not a ~~viability~~ viability issue as Barnes states. The city of Huron delivers H₂O, & Barnes can pay for his H₂O like I do at my business. Sheldon's is preserve & needs protection from Savvy & wealthy predators

Albert Berardi

23 Columbus Ave

Amos Oh 44839

(41) 433 7356

Mike Danner