

Good morning, Sim Ann Lindau, Councilwoman in the
Town of Cortlandt

The Pipeline poses an unacceptable risk to the Catskill Aqueduct and could have a catastrophic effect on the New York City's water supply. With a capacity of 800 million gallons a day, the Aqueduct supplies approximately 40% of the City's water supply. Thirteen municipal water systems in Westchester County also depend on this section of the Catskill Aqueduct for their water supply. The Pipeline, as Millennium proposed, would cross the Catskill Aqueduct within two feet of the Aqueduct itself. This is too much of a risk for a precious resource. The Department of Environmental Protection has asked for alternative routes-Millennium has failed to respond. In a preliminary review, the Army Corps of Engineers determined that building the pipeline within two feet of the Aqueduct poses an inherent security risk to the Catskill Aqueduct that cannot be completely eliminated through design modifications. Again, water is a precious resource, and needs to be protected.

The recommended pipeline route would include construction activity of pristine water supply lands located in the New Croton Reservoir Watershed. Water supplied by the New Croton Reservoir, like all City reservoirs, is unfiltered before it is consumed-an average of 900,000 people depend on this water supply. This means that watershed protection efforts are the sole practice used to ensure that water quality is maintained at the highest levels.

New York City is spending more than \$200 million dollars in projects to protect the Croton watershed. Watershed protection is increasingly difficult, because this watershed is substantially developed. Millennium's proposal to build its pipeline in this watershed will require removal of trees and other vegetation across 20 – 25 acres of watershed lands. In addition to causing the one-time runoff of construction-related pollutants, this substantial loss of vegetation will permanently reduce the watershed's ability to absorb pollutants and prevent contaminants from reaching water bodies. Are we protecting our citizens and their water supplies?

The New York State Energy Plan notes that there are 11 natural gas projects, including Millennium, that have been proposed to serve the New York metropolitan region. Many proposals are expansions to, or extensions of, existing pipelines. These types of proposals limit the potential negative impact on communities and the environment, while allowing for substantial increases in capacity, and I ask that they be considered before we consider a whole new pipeline.

In summary, I do not think the Millennium Pipeline should be allowed to go forward. I do not believe that an overwhelming need for this project has been demonstrated. Given all of the risks that the project entails—destroying sensitive habitats, risking the destruction of New York City and Westchester's water supplies—you need to ask—does the potential value of the project outweigh the potential risks to our citizens, our environment and most importantly our water supply? Thank you