



COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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C. SCOTT VANDERHOEF
County Executive

R. ALLAN BEERS
Coordinator,
Environmental Resources

Mr. Karl Gleaves
Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
United States Department of Commerce
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, Md. 20910

November 12, 2002

Dear Mr. Gleaves:

As Chairman for the Rockland County Pipeline Task Force, I enter these comments into the record at the public hearing held on November 13, 2002.

In 1998, when the Millennium Pipeline was first proposed, the County of Rockland was the first County to create a Pipeline Task Force to evaluate the impacts the proposed pipeline would have on our residents and environment and the first to file for "*intervenor status*".

As a result of these actions, the County of Rockland was able to work directly with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the New York State Public Service Commission, local elected officials, Columbia Gas representatives and the public to locate the pipeline in an area where it would have the least impact to our residents and environment.

Mirant Energy Company constructed the portion of the pipeline that will be used for the Millennium Pipeline in 2001. The project was completed with minimal impact to the residents along the route and the environment.

We are truly shocked and disappointed that the New York Department of State would suggest alternative routes in Rockland County without contacting our elected officials to discuss the impacts these routes would have on our County.

Be advised that the County of Rockland will be providing additional comments both from the County level, local elected officials, Environmental Organizations, Civic Associations and the public. The alternative routes will have significant permanent impacts to both our residents and the environment.

The County of Rockland will not become the sacrificial County to benefit a few Westchester County residents.

Sincerely,

R. Allan Beers
Coordinator of Environmental Resources
Chairman Rockland County Pipeline Task Force

C. Hon C. Scott Vanderhoef