



TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

200 South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua, New York 10514 • (914) 238-4771 • Fax (914) 238-2354 • town.new-castle.ny.us

Statement on Columbia Millennium Pipeline to the Department of Commerce hearing on CZM Compliance November 13, 2002

The Town of New Castle consistently has raised concerns and issues with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the State of New York and Columbia Gas Transmission since the Millennium Pipeline was first proposed. Some of these concerns have involved Coastal Zone Management issues, although many of them have been related to environmental matters that are corollary and parallel to the Hudson River Crossing in that location. We have argued that the environmental review of the ConEd Offset/Taconic Parkway Alternative was inadequate, just as the environmental concerns for the crossing of Haverstraw Bay raised by adjacent communities have been inadequately reviewed in the FERC Draft Order.

New Castle's concerns have not been addressed and resolved to our satisfaction by FERC in the environmental review and approval process or by Columbia on its own volition. That being the case, the Town of New Castle considers the proposed Pipeline to present unacceptable risks to the safety, welfare and quality of life of our residents as well as our neighbors. We ask the Department of Commerce to note for the record at this time that the Town is opposed to the project as currently proposed.

Mindful of the need for additional energy we regret that a workable proposal was not put forward. Nevertheless we cannot support the project with the disturbance to Haverstraw Bay. We ask the Department of Commerce to uphold the NYS Secretary of State's determination and require FERC to review alternate Pipeline routes.

**Respectfully submitted by Supervisor Marion S. Sinek
on behalf of the New Castle Town Board**