

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Yorkers Urge Governor Hochul To Reject Dangerous Gas Pipelines and Nuclear Power Plants Threatening Central NY

[EDITORIAL NOTE: An in-person press conference for this date was announced by media advisory on August 19. Due to thunderstorms forecast through the morning of August 20, it was necessary to cancel the event. Local residents and members of Citizen Action New York caught up with the Governor inside the Fair and spoke to her about the message. The messages the hosts wish to send to Gov. Hochul on the opening day of the Great New York State Fair remain timely and relevant, so we are issuing the following statement.]

Syracuse, NY - Today, as Governor Hochul attends Opening Day at the Great New York State Fair, Central New York residents, community leaders and environmentalists are demanding the Governor reject dangerous nuclear power plants and major fracked gas pipelines that threaten our communities. Despite overwhelming opposition to the plans, Governor Hochul is fast-tracking pipelines that would harm our health and cost us billions in order to appease Trump and the fossil fuel industry.

New Yorkers want Gov. Hochul to protect clean water, clean air, and healthy food, not toxic industries and corporations that pollute our communities. They celebrated New York's farmers, food and clean water - and industries like dairy, produce, wine and beer that rely on clean water and healthy soil - a cornerstone of what the New York State Fair represents. Governor Hochul has increasingly been turning away from the promise of clean renewable energy and starting to embrace nuclear and gas corporations, which would jeopardize healthy food and water in our state. This change comes as the Trump administration has been pushing for both new nuclear power plants and two fracked gas pipelines in New York, including the Constitution and Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) pipelines, which were denied years ago given threats to New York's water quality.

“In the face of climate change, proven renewable energy solutions like wind, solar, geothermal, and battery storage will protect our air, water, and wallets as New York makes the needed transition away from dirty fossil fuels,” said **Ethan Gormley, Climate Justice Organizer for Citizen Action of New York**. “It’s bewildering to watch Governor Kathy Hochul consider fracked gas pipelines and nuclear energy pipe dreams when more polluting gas and more expensive nuclear plants will only threaten our environment, health, and financial wellbeing.

Gov. Hochul must put New York ratepayers above dirty energy special interests by rejecting new pipelines and discontinuing the push for new nuclear power in New York.”

“We love to celebrate all of the things that are great about New York at the State Fair, so on opening day we want to remind Governor Hochul what it takes to keep them,” said **Tim Judson, Executive Director of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service**. “We can’t have clean air and water and healthy, vibrant communities by promoting toxic, dangerous industries. We live with the legacy of that in Central New York, from the pollution of our sacred Onondaga Lake just steps from the fairgrounds, to the six decades of radioactive pollution and nuclear waste on the shores of Lake Ontario. We are sick of toxic industries calling the shots in Central New York, and we are sick of paying out our noses for dirty energy that poisons our air, our water, and our communities. We don’t want to pay \$20 billion for a new nuclear plant, and we don’t want to pay \$30 billion to subsidize dirty, old, dangerous ones for the rest of our lives. We need Governor Hochul to do her job and make New York State truly great by focusing on building the clean, renewable energy future that New York law requires, and stop using our tax dollars and utility bills to push nuclear power, fracked gas, and toxic tech in our communities.”

Renee Vogelsang, New York Director of Frack Action, said, “New Yorkers want clean water, not Trump approved dirty pipelines and dangerous nuclear power. An overwhelming movement of New Yorkers opposed these pipelines a decade ago, and the state DEC rightly rejected them given the harms they pose to our water quality. We call on Governor Hochul to protect our water, reject these pipelines and move forward to clean energy, not backward to dirty and dangerous nuclear and gas.”

“Nuclear energy is costly, unsafe, and poses public health and environmental hazards. New York can help lead the nation into a 21st century renewable energy future that keeps up with the needs of society that does not include the expansions of climate destroying fossil fuel infrastructure, like the fracked gas pipelines being proposed by the Trump administration; and dangerous nuclear energy,” said **Eric Wood, Senior Environmental Program Coordinator for NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group**. “New York’s energy future lies with energy efficiency, smarter grids, solar and wind. These approaches cost less and result in healthier, safer communities and protect New Yorkers interests over those of Washington. In addition, by converting New York State to 100 percent clean, renewable energy, tens of thousands of in-state, good paying union jobs could be created, **Wood added.**”

“Governor Hochul, say yes to a just economy that would create thousands of clean energy jobs, lower greenhouse gas emissions while supporting those communities hit hardest by climate change. Say yes to clean air, clean water, and healthy communities by accelerating renewable energy solutions such as wind, solar and battery storage. Governor Hochul, say NO to nuclear power plants and fracked gas pipelines that will continue to pollute our air, water and soil,” said

Maggie Reilly, Environmental Engineer and Climate Activist, Climate Crisis Working Group of Indivisible Mohawk Valley. “This federal administration is destroying all climate progress to revive not only an antiquated oil & gas economy but to bring back dirty coal. They are doing everything possible to stop the momentum of transitioning this country to a cleaner energy economy. So today we urge Governor Hochul to show courage and stand up to this authoritarian regime that is empowering the fossil fuel industry. Instead, Governor Hochul must protect the citizens of New York State, be on the right side of history, and be a leader who will give our youth hope. For it is their future that is on the line.” **added Reilly.**

“If Governor Hochul wants an affordability agenda, she should not force New Yorkers to fund toxic fracked gas pipelines and costly nuclear boondoggles through our utility bills.” said **Jessica Azulay, Executive Director of Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE).** “Instead, she should be helping families insulate their homes to bring down energy costs, removing unnecessary charges from our energy bills like the 100ft rule, and building renewable energy that has no fuel costs. We call on the Governor to embrace these common sense policies, not hand our money over to gas and nuclear corporations who pollute our water and our air. “

Gas Pipelines Background:

The Wall Street Journal reported on May 28 that the pipeline company behind the long-denied Constitution Pipeline and Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) pipeline are attempting to revive the projects following Trump-Hochul talks. The White House has claimed that Hochul "caved" on the pipelines after Trump allowed a wind project to continue. Hochul denies that a deal was made, but has not come out in opposition to the pipelines despite the state's prior review and denial.

New York State has clear authority to deny the pipelines under section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act. The Constitution pipeline's planned route in 2016 was approximately 125 miles from Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, to Schoharie County, New York and would have crossed 250 waterways. The pipeline would impact water quality given sedimentation, erosion, dredging, and changes in turbidity, posing harms to sensitive streams, trout, and other habitats.

The NESE pipeline was planned to run approximately 24 miles underwater in New York Harbor between New Jersey and New York. The DEC denied the pipeline given the harm it posed to water quality, including impacts from stirring up toxic contaminants, causing turbidity, and damage to critical habitats.

There was mass opposition to these pipelines in the past given the dangers they pose, both to water quality and the economy. Impacts to water and the environment endanger agriculture, small businesses, fishing, tourism, and recreation. Additionally, the costs of the pipelines would

ultimately be borne by ratepayers. For instance, National Grid estimates that the NESE pipeline would lead to a 3.5% increase in costs for its customers across New York City and Long Island.

Nuclear Power Background:

Gov. Hochul has begun a concerted effort to promote the continuation and expansion of nuclear power. In 2024, she called for creation of a Nuclear “Blueprint” for New York. In her 2025 State of the State speech, she announced that NYSERDA would create a Nuclear Master Plan and pay Constellation half of the cost of applying to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for an Early Site Permit to build one or more new reactors at the Nine Mile Point nuclear power plant in Oswego County. In June, she directed the New York Power Authority (NYPA), which has not owned or operated nuclear power plants for 25 years, to build 1,000 MW of new nuclear power capacity. Based on known and projected costs for new nuclear reactors, the project could cost \$20 billion or more. And in July, her Department of Public Service issued a proposal to extend the existing 12-year, \$7 billion nuclear power plant subsidy program for an extra 20 years -- adding up to \$33 billion more to ratepayers’ electricity bills for subsidies to the state’s four aging reactors. When it was created in 2016, the nuclear power subsidy was intended to be a “temporary bridge” to renewable energy, but nine years later, ratepayers are being charged upwards of 30 times more in nuclear power surcharges than for new renewable energy sources.

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