



NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

For Immediate Release: September 21, 2026

Contact: Eric Wood
ewood@nypirg.org, 845-214-7497

“As FERC’s Deadline for Public Comment on the Environmental Assessment of Williams Transco Proposed Constitution Pipeline Hits Cutoff Point, New York Groups and Individuals Submit Comments ”

[Albany, NY] - The Constitution Pipeline is a proposed interstate natural gas pipeline extending approximately 125 miles from Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, to Wright, New York in Schoharie County, in the state’s Capital Region. The revived pipeline moved closer to federal authorization on **Aug. 26**, despite [New York's demand that regulators conduct a new environmental impact statement](#). FERC gave New Yorkers until September 21, 2026 to file comments in opposition or in support of the project.

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) are among [many who submitted comments in opposition](#) to the proposed project before the September 21 comment deadline.

“While air pollution from fossil fuels costs each American an average of \$2,500 a year in extra medical bills¹ New Yorkers continue to be burdened with the highest healthcare costs in the nation.² Climate change is also costing U.S. households an additional \$400 and \$900 a year, on average, in rising costs in areas like insurance, energy and government.³ There is no reason to continue to build out 20th century energy sources” ,said **Eric Wood, Senior Environmental Program Coordinator for NYPIRG**. “Energy efficiency improvements are some of the most cost-effective tools available to help make homes more comfortable and lower household energy costs.⁴ Solar PV module prices have fallen by around 90% since the end of 2009, while wind turbine prices have fallen by 49-78% since 2010 making renewable energy cost competitive.⁵ The price of residential natural gas has increased 30-40% since 2010.”⁶ **Wood added.**

A **federal authorization deadline** for construction permission is set for Nov. 19, 2026. [NYPIRG’s full statement can be found here.](#)

¹ Lavietes, Matthew. World Economic Forum. Air Pollution Costs Each American \$2,500 Per Year. <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2021/06/air-pollution-cost-america-healthcare-study/> June 2021

² New York Health Plan Association. Time for Affordability. <https://nyhpa.org/time-for-affordability/> September 2026

³ MIT Sloan School of Management. Why Climate Change is Costing US Households Hundreds of Dollars Per Year. <https://mitsloan.mit.edu/press/why-climate-change-costing-u-s-households-hundreds-dollars-a-year> April 2026

⁴ Center for American Progress. The Long Game on Energy Affordability. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-long-game-on-energy-affordability/> September 2026

⁵ International Renewable Energy Agency. Power Generation Costs. <https://www.irena.org/Energy-Transition/Technology/Power-generation-costs>. December 2025

⁶ US Energy Information Association. Natural Gas. <https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/hist/n3010us3a.htm> September 2026

September 21, 2026

Laura Swett, Chair
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 2042

**Re: Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, L.L.C., Environmental Assessment,
[Docket Nos. CP13-499-006, CP13-502-003]**

Dear Chair Swett:

The Williams Constitution Pipeline Project and the related Wright Interconnect Project (docket numbers CP13-499-006 and CP13-502-003) pose serious threats to New York's public health and environment.

Notwithstanding the Staff's Conclusions and Recommendations contained in the August 2026 Environmental Assessment, the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) urges that the Commission reject the permit applications. We do not find it credible that construction of a 125 mile long 2.5 foot diameter pipeline "would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment."

Moreover, building a natural gas pipeline – to transport a fossil fuel that has 84 times the greenhouse gas potency of carbon dioxide over a 20 year period – is terrible policy and poor allocation of resources when compared to renewable energy resources, conservation and demand management strategies.

Burning fossil fuels is by far the largest contributor to global climate change, accounting for around 68% of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90% of all carbon dioxide emissions.¹ Global Climate change is disastrous for public health as it is increasing respiratory and cardiovascular disease, injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events, changes in the prevalence and geographical distribution of food- and water-borne illnesses and other infectious diseases, and threats to mental health.²

¹ United Nations. Causes and Effects of Climate Change.
<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/causes-effects-climate-change> September 2026

² Center for Disease Control. Effects of Climate Change on Health.
<https://www.cdc.gov/climate-health/php/effects/index.html> September 2026

Pipelines and compressor stations release chemical pollutants into the air, sometimes at levels higher than national air quality standards and are often placed in rural areas with higher levels of poverty and/or minority populations, contributing to environmental justice concerns.³

Transitioning away from fossil fuel toward cleaner and sustainable energy sources and increased investment in energy efficiency measures in the built environment will improve public health and lower emissions, hereby helping slow climate change and minimize its anticipated impacts on public health.⁴

Due to the potential threat that the construction of the Constitution Pipeline poses to the public health and environment, NYPIRG recommends that FERC:

- 1.) Properly identify the proposed construction method for each major or environmentally sensitive waterbody crossing and explain why that method was selected.
- 2.) Evaluate potential effects of blasting, excavation, erosion, spills, soil disturbance, and other construction activities on groundwater and surface-water quality.
- 3.) Identify private and public drinking-water supplies that could be affected and establish appropriate baseline testing and post-construction monitoring.
- 4.) Evaluate reasonable crossing methods or route alternatives that would avoid or reduce impacts to sensitive water resources.
- 5.) Make relevant studies, crossing plans, mitigation measures, and monitoring requirements available for public review before reaching final environmental and certificate determinations.

While air pollution from fossil fuels costs each American an average of \$2,500 a year in extra medical bills⁵New Yorkers continue to be burdened with the highest healthcare costs in the nation.⁶ Climate change is also costing U.S. households an additional \$400 and \$900 a year, on average, in rising costs in areas like insurance, energy and government.⁷

Energy efficiency improvements are some of the most cost-effective tools available to help make homes more comfortable and lower household energy costs.⁸ Solar PV module prices

³ Davis, Curtis. National Library of Medicine. Community Impacts from Natural Gas Compressor Stations. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10616731/> October 2023

⁴ Bell, Michelle. National Library of Medicine. The Health Impacts of Transitioning Away From Fossil Fuel Toward Cleaner Energy. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40215137/> April 2025

⁵ Lavietes, Matthew. World Economic Forum. Air Pollution Costs Each American \$2,500 Per Year. <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2021/06/air-pollution-cost-america-healthcare-study/> June 2021

⁶ New York Health Plan Association. Time for Affordability. <https://nyhpa.org/time-for-affordability/> September 2026

⁷ MIT Sloan School of Management. Why Climate Change is Costing US Households Hundreds of Dollars Per Year. <https://mitsloan.mit.edu/press/why-climate-change-costing-u-s-households-hundreds-dollars-a-year> April 2026

⁸ Center for American Progress. The Long Game on Energy Affordability. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-long-game-on-energy-affordability/> September 2026

have fallen by around 90% since the end of 2009, while wind turbine prices have fallen by 49-78% since 2010 making renewable energy cost competitive.⁹ The price of residential natural gas has increased 30-40% since 2010.¹⁰

NYPIRG's assessment is that there are far healthier and more affordable choices for New York's energy future than the Constitution Pipeline. NYPIRG urges that FERC rejects issuing permits for the construction of the Constitution Pipeline. FERC should focus on helping build the 21st century energy infrastructure, not extending the life of the 20th century energy paradigm, which resulted in incredible damage to health and the environment and threatens the global future..

⁹ International Renewable Energy Agency. Power Generation Costs.
<https://www.irena.org/Energy-Transition/Technology/Power-generation-costs>. December 2025

¹⁰ US Energy Information Association. Natural Gas. <https://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/hist/n3010us3a.htm>
September 2026