**Pipeline Status – November 2017**

**Pilgrim Pipelines**

***What Is It?***

The company Pilgrim Pipeline**s** plans to build 2 side-by-side pipelines running from Albany, NY, to Linden, NJ. The southbound pipe would carry crude oil; the northbound pipe would carry refined products.

***Current Status***

1. **Positive Declaration** was issued by DEC in September 2016, but Pilgrim has not yet submitted a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. At this time it is not known if Pilgrim intends to move forward with the project or abandon it.
2. **Related issues:**
	1. **DEC Proposed amendments to SEQR**. The principal purpose of the amendments is to streamline the SEQR process without sacrificing meaningful environmental review. Public comments period closed May 19, 2017. Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipelines and other environmental groups oppose these changes. The comments received and proposed amendments are currently under review by the DEC. No decision has yet been announced.
	2. **Proposed amendment to NY Transportation Corporation Law** giving towns, as well as cities and villages, the ability to prevent pipelines within their boundaries. Assembly version of this bill passed in the NYS Assembly last session, but the legislative session ended without the Senate version getting out of committee. Plan is to re-introduce the bills early in the next legislative session so that there is time to get the necessary support and have a vote on the bills.

**Millenium Valley Lateral Pipeline / CPV**

***What Is It?***

The Valley Lateral Pipeline is a new 7.8 mile pipeline running across Minisink and Wawayanda that would supply fracked gas to the nearly completed Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) plant in Wawayanda, NY. Preventing construction of the Valley Lateral Pipeline is environmentalists’ last hope for preventing operation of the CPV plant.

***Current Status***

On or about Nov. 3, a federal appeals court issued a preliminary order that prevents the start of construction of this pipeline while state and federal regulators continue their dispute over a critical permit for the gas line.

Earlier a staff person at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) had ruled that the work could begin. But then the U.S. Court of Appeals in Manhattan granted the state Department of Environmental Conservation an emergency stay, suspending this earlier decision by FERC to let the pipe work begin.

**Eastern System Upgrade Project**

***What Is It?***

Eastern System Upgrade Project by Millenium includes the construction of a new compressor station in Sullivan County, as well as additional infrastructure and upgrades to existing facilities. (The Valley Lateral Pipeline described above is just one segment of this project.) The Eastern System Upgrade project components are located in multiple towns in Delaware, Orange, Rockland and Sullivan Counties.

***Current Status***

After a rigorous review of Millennium Pipeline Company, LLC's (Millennium's) application for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) and related permits, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) determined that the Eastern System Upgrade (ESU) project meets State water quality standards and has issued a WQC and related permits. (However, note as described above, DEC conditionally denied Millennium's Valley Lateral project based in part on the inadequacy of the environmental review conducted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ).

**Dakota Access Pipeline**

***What Is It?***

This is a 1,200-mile oil pipeline from the Bakken oil fields to the Midwest, built and operated by Energy Transfer Partners. The route crosses the Missouri River just yards upstream from the Standing Rock Sioux reservation. The tribe objected to this pipeline because of its threats to their drinking water and their sacred sites, and engaged in historic protests during 2016 and 2017.

***Current Status***

The pipeline is currently operational, having overcome a number of legal challenges by the Tribe and environmental groups such as Earthjustice. However, it could still be shut down.

In June 2017, just weeks after pipeline operations had begun, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia [ruled for the Tribe](https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2017/in-victory-for-standing-rock-sioux-tribe-court-finds-that-approval-of-dakota-access-pipeline-violated-the-law) that the Army Corps had not complied with environmental review laws before issuing permits for the pipeline to cross the Missouri River. In October a federal judge ruled the Army Corps must do a full environmental review, but that the pipeline did not need to be shut down while the review is ongoing. The Corps estimates that the new environmental review will be completed by April 2018.