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New York Towns Fight Back Against Controversial Crude Oil and Gasoline Pipelines Proposed by Pilgrim

New Paltz, NY -- Last night the Town of New Paltz committed to rejecting the NY Thruway Authority's request to be the Lead Agency on an environmental review of the widely opposed, controversial proposed Pilgrim pipelines. New Paltz, at their Board meeting, took the strongest possible action, offering to be lead agency if the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would not step up.

Fifty-eight towns in New York and New Jersey (1) and the County of Ulster, have [passed Resolutions](#) opposing Pilgrim Pipelines, but the controversial private pipeline corporation has nonetheless filed its application for permits to use the Right of Way from the New York State Thruway Authority to build its proposed pipelines. The aggressive move by Pilgrim Holdings LLC, a new corporation, is coupled with a request for the New York State Thruway Authority for the Authority to be the "Lead Agency" for the environmental review process. Pilgrim did not publicly disclose until this week that it filed its permit application in August.

New York environmental and civic groups; town, city and county leaders; and impacted landowners condemned Pilgrim's permit application. "We have already urged the New York State Thruway Authority to deny these permits," said **Jennifer Metzger**, the Rosendale Councilwoman who introduced the first Resolution Opposing Pilgrim Pipelines in New York State. "These pipelines would directly contradict the energy and climate goals for New York and threaten the health and well-being of our communities."

"Pilgrim's twin pipelines would threaten our drinking water supplies, gravely endanger every community in its path, and bring even more oil trains into New York State to service the southbound crude oil pipeline," said **Roger Downs, Conservation Director, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter**. "Pilgrim's preliminary Environmental Impact Statement is unacceptably incomplete and reflects the absence of required public input. The document's dismissive tone about the risks associated with these pipelines starkly contrasts our national experience with catastrophic crude oil pipeline spills and explosions that have resulted in billion dollar clean-up costs and devastated communities."

Riverkeeper's **Kate Hudson** stated, "Pilgrim's preparation and submission of a Draft Environmental impact Statement (DEIS) with no input from the public, and the Thruway Authority's sitting on that DEIS for almost 4 months before notifying all impacted towns that it wants to lead the environmental review, appears to be calculated to completely cut the public out of this critical review process."

"The pipelines Pilgrim has proposed threaten important resources of statewide concern, including the Hudson River and major tributaries, wetlands and other resources that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for protecting," Hudson explained. "DEC, not the Thruway Authority, is best suited to guide

the environmental review of this large, multi-jurisdictional project which would impact environmental resources in 6 New York counties and 29 towns. DEC has the power and expertise to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated review. DEC is also best positioned to lead an evaluation of the proposed Pilgrim pipelines' impacts on climate. We adamantly oppose the Thruway Authority taking the lead agency role and urge involved agencies, including the 29 towns that would be impacted, to refuse to consent to Thruway's insistence that it be the lead agency."

"I first learned about Pilgrim Pipelines when, shortly after purchasing property for my new business, I started receiving daily phone calls from a Pilgrim representative," said **Arielle Herman**, a landowner and small business owner in the Greene County town of Catskill. "The representative kept referring to 'a financial opportunity for you'... When Pilgrim says 'financial opportunity' I am stricken with fear about the threats to my drinking water, plummeting property values, skyrocketing insurance rates, and that the noise and filth created by such a construction road would swiftly bring death to my fledgling business."

"Let's not let Pilgrim cut the public out," said Saugerties resident **Sue Rosenberg** of the Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipelines-NY. "Now is the time for the people of New York State to let local, county and state leaders know we want the New York State Thruway Authority to say 'NO' to Pilgrim's application for permits. CAPP-NY supports citizens from communities along the proposed pipeline route who have organized and have been speaking out against this dangerous and unnecessary pipeline which threatens our water, air and safety of our communities. Hundreds of people have come out to over 30 Town Board meetings and public forums, including many landowners who live along the proposed pipeline route. These voices of opposition are gaining force as the permitting process has begun. We demand DEC, not the Thruway Authority, be the Lead Agency. We demand that these pipelines, carrying the most volatile and dangerous crude oil, not be built."

The proposed route as submitted by Pilgrim includes 5 laterals, four pump stations, and metering stations, as well as 256 miles of main pipeline. **CAPP-NY** stated: "The project would be enormous, with tremendous potential for disaster and the certainty of negative impacts: the fracking, flaring, construction damage, private property seized, and the wrong direction for energy sanity. We would all be Fossil Fools if Pilgrim Pipelines were to begin construction, as their plan states, on April 1, 2016 – or ever. We stopped fracking in New York State, and we can stop Pilgrim pipelines. We will protect our drinking water, our rivers and streams, our air and health, and our communities."

(1) Corrected: An earlier version of this release had said 37 towns. All resolutions are available at <http://stoppilgrimpipeline.com/resolutions/> and 18 of the NY Resolutions are attached separately.

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