

May 2, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of the State of New York  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The residents of Orange County have long been calling for an investigation into the numerous irregularities in the approval process for the CPV Valley Power Plant and related Minisink Compressor Station. We applaud the launch of both your probe and the recently announced federal investigation. We hope they serve to explain these irregularities and result in their expeditious redress. The primary responsibility of all government officials and regulatory agencies must be to safeguard the public welfare. When corporate manipulation of government compromises the environmental review process for [projects with potential health and safety](#) implications, the consequences can be catastrophic. We hope these probes will serve to restore integrity to this process and public confidence in our state government.

It is highly questionable that this project serves the public interest in any manner whatsoever. It is clear that numerous environmental issues were ignored. Moreover, this project is entirely inconsistent with your own policy on fracking as well as your stated renewable energy goals. We hope your internal investigation will scrutinize and remedy these inconsistencies. Finally, the possibility of undue influence indicated by the criminal federal investigation questions the validity of all existing permits. We are most bewildered why construction was allowed to commence when CPV has yet to obtain the state and federal permits for their lateral pipeline.

Since last year Protect Orange County's citizen [letter writing campaign](#) has implored your office to suspend the permits for this ill-conceived project and launch your own investigation into the matter. **While the announcement that your office has now suspended regulatory matters with CPV is welcome news, all state and local permits related to this project, save one, have already been issued and construction is underway.** Indeed, much damage has already been done; historic sites, protected farmland, wetlands, and endangered species habitat have been recklessly destroyed. The human costs to the community already living with what we believe is a related project, the Minisink Compressor Station, is even more alarming.

**At this point, with a cloud of potential criminal wrong doing hanging over this project, we ask you, Governor Cuomo, to use your executive authority to rescind all state permits and halt construction before the harm becomes irreparable.**

Furthermore, any potential wrongdoing must not be rewarded. For too long, only a handful of local citizens have been lone voices in a regulatory wilderness of indifference and evasion.

We knew from the beginning that something was very wrong when a small local town Planning Board was allowed to assume lead agency status for the environmental review of the \$900 million CPV project. An undertaking of this magnitude could adversely impact dozens of townships, hundreds of thousands of residents, resources of statewide significance, and exacerbate global warming. During the lengthy approval process, numerous substantive issues were systematically and repeatedly ignored under the watch of local, county and state elected officials as well as regulatory agencies who are responsible to protect public health, safety and our environment.

It is imperative that our system of checks and balances with regard to the environmental review processes be restored to safeguard not only public health and safety already compromised by this project, but also to preserve our democracy.

Protect Orange County has gathered extensive documentation which we are happy to share with your office. We also seek to speak with you as soon as possible to share our knowledge of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Members of "Protect Orange County" and concerned citizens and organizations

Pramilla Malick, Contact  
At: stopmcs@gmail.com