

# The Legislature of Rockland County



**HARRIET D. CORNELL**  
Legislator – District 10  
Chair, Environmental Committee

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014**  
**6:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

LEG. H. CORNELL, CHAIR  
LEG. N. LOW-HOGAN, VICE-CHAIR  
LEG. C. CAREY

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

LEG. CHAIR A. WOLFE  
LEG. T. EARL  
LEG. B. KANTROWITZ  
LEG. F. SPARACO

**OTHERS PRESENT**

E. YEGER ESQ.  
S. GLIDDEN  
A. PINZOW  
P. CLAIR  
S. POWERS  
A. DALTON  
S. CAIRO  
LEG. D. JOBSON  
S. VAN DOLSEN  
E. WEININGER  
J. RAVNITZKY  
G. PISHA  
S. LEVINE  
J. DECRESENZO

CHAIR CORNELL CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:05 PM

**ROLL CALL**

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 6/11/14 MEETING**

**NO QUORUM**

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 6/25/14 MEETING**

**NO QUORUM**

1. REF. #1021 - DISCUSSION ITEM – INFORMATIONAL DISCUSSION ON THE ALGONQUIN PIPELINE  
(HON. HARRIET D. CORNELL, LEGISLATURE)

Chair Cornell introduced the leadership of the SAPE organization.

Suzannah Glidden delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the work of SAPE. SAPE would like there to be health and safety assessments before any natural gas pipeline is approved. The proposed pipeline would run through New England and pass within 1,500 feet of the Indian Point plant.

Pipelines have exploded in many areas, and the government oversight agency is weak. The NRC recognized that a risk analysis needs to be done, but it will be done after it is approved. The pipeline expansion may hinder the ability of homeowners to maintain mortgages and insurance.

Compressor stations continuously emit dangerous chemicals that can be seen using an infrared camera. Methane, among other chemicals, is emitted, and is far more harmful than carbon dioxide. There are many negative health effects that can harm people's health.

SAPE believes that natural gas produced and transported through the pipeline is intended to be exported to Canada. SAPE would like the legislature to pass a resolution declaring that no permits are to be granted until health issues are addressed. Other legislatures have passed or are considering such resolutions. SEQRA should also be complied with and state agencies should have oversight.

Chair Cornell thanked Suzannah for the presentation and documentation, and asked Stephen Powers if the county signed on as an intervener on this issue, and whether or not the pipeline passes through county parkland.

Mr. Powers responded that the county is not an intervener, and that it is believed the pipeline does not traverse county parkland.

Legislator Carey stated he also wanted to hear state and other experts weigh in on the issue, and also gain an understanding of the economic impact of this.

Legislator Jobson thanked everyone for attending and stated he would support a resolution looking into the health impacts of the pipeline.

Ellen Weininger stated that the federal review framework is being followed; however such framework doesn't include the health reviews that SAPE is requesting.

Paula Clair discussed the projected emissions from this project, which are significantly over the permitted US threshold for Rockland, and the significant health impacts that ensue from such emissions.

Susan Philgaris, a Stony Point resident, said that the company's notifications and meetings for the public have been made in such a way as to limit public input. She discussed other energy projects impacting the Stony Point area. Additionally, the pipeline may impact the Letchworth Cemetery. Crude trains passing through and the presence of the fault line add environmental issues.

Legislator Low-Hogan asked about the federal thresholds and regulatory requirements, which do not require health assessments, and stated they should be strengthened.

Chair Cornell asked if there will be a FEIS on this project. The process is managed by FERC.

**ACTION: COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE SHOULD DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE PROPOSED PIPELINE WILL PASS THROUGH COUNTY PARKLAND**

**DISCUSSED**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 7:30 PM  
LOW-HOGAN/CAREY**

**UNAN**

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