

CONSTITUTION PIPELINE

Public Meeting

Cobleskill, NY 8.18.26

STOP THE CON linktr.ee/stoptheCON

Waterfall Unity Alliance www.waterfallunityalliance.org

Environmental Health Project www.environmentalhealthproject.org

OUTLINE

History (2012 - 2020) & Current Status

What IS the Constitution Pipeline?

Environmental Impacts

Introduction to Environmental Health Project

Air pollution from pipelines, compressor stations, and related infrastructure

Health impacts of pipelines, compressor stations, and related infrastructure

Recommendations to protect your health

Health Watch Program

Regional Threats

What to do next

Q&A



HISTORY

- 2012** - First proposed / pre-filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
- 2013** - Submitted application to FERC, triggered an environmental review by FERC and DEC (which acts as a federal agency under the Clean Water Act). All of these agencies rely on FERC's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to make their decisions.
- 2014** - FERC approves a (conditional) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.
- 2016** - New York State DEC denies the project under the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- 2017** - Williams appeals, a federal appeals court upholds NYS's denial.
- 2018** - Williams appeals again & The U.S. Supreme Court let the state's denial stand by declining to hear the case.
- 2020** - After further attempts to continue by Williams, Constitution Pipeline project is officially abandoned.

WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW

Mid 2025 - Constitution begins reviving the project with preliminary permit applications.

Dec 19, 2025 - Williams files its official petition with FERC to reauthorize the federal certificate despite its denial by NYS and its loss in all appeals.

Jan 8, 2026 - FERC allows this petition and formally announces the application to revive construction of the Constitution Pipeline.

We are essentially back in 2013, following the same exact regulatory process that this project has already been subjected to.

FERC is expected to approve.

NYS has to deny.

FERC is expected to release an Environmental Assessment on August 2st - your next opportunity to have your voice heard!

WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTION PIPELINE?

30" diameter pipeline.

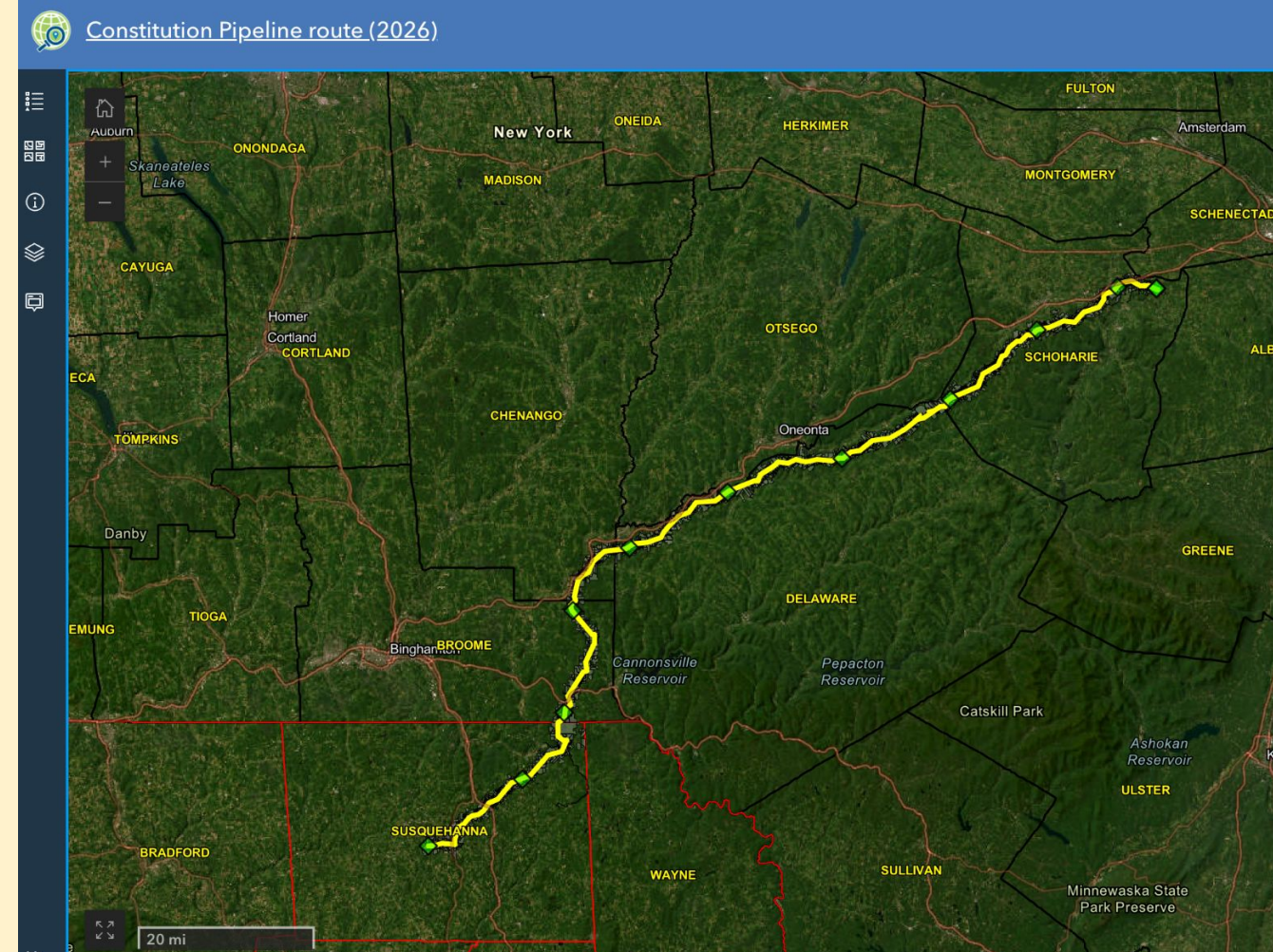
Operating at a maximum of 1,480 psi (High pressure).

Proposed to move 650,000 dekatherms of gas/day. (650 million cubic feet).

Proposed to run approximately 124 miles from northeast Pennsylvania (Susquehanna County) up into NY, through Broome, Chenango, Delaware (along the Otsego border), and Schoharie counties.

In the town of Wright, Constitution would connect into the existing compressor station and contribute gas to the Tennessee and Iroquois pipelines. The compressor station would greatly expand to accommodate this connection.

In the 2013 application, it was stated that the intended markets for this gas was New York City and New England states.



Constitution is owned by Williams Companies, an Oklahoma based corporation, and one of the largest pipeline companies in the US. Williams also owns the Transcontinental Pipeline which moves gas from the Gulf of Mexico to New York City.



The High Consequence Area, or hazard area, or 'blast zone' is calculated at approximately 800 ft. in either direction of the line.

A primary risk with a high-pressure natural gas pipeline is a rupture and ensuing fire and explosion. Ruptures can occur, and have occurred, due to external forces on the pipe (such as being struck during digging), from internal corrosion of the pipe, external corrosion of the pipe, and from failed welds. Such tremendous heat is given off by a high-pressure gas line fire that within the hazard distance of the rupture point, buildings are destroyed and lives are lost without actually being touched by the flame.

Constitution has a 50ft easement - 25 feet in either direction.

March 13, 1990 Blenheim Pipeline Explosion.



Community members
Robert (Bobby)
Hitchcock and
Richard Smith were
killed in the tragic
event.
14 structures were
destroyed.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Construction will require:

The clearing of 1,872 acres of land.

Destroy approximately 700,000 trees on 1,034 acres of forest.

Cross 330 bodies of water, many of them cold-water trout streams.

Impact over 95 acres of wetlands, of which 34 acres are irreplaceable forested wetlands.

Climb or descend over 35 miles of steep slopes.

Blast through 45.5 miles of shallow bedrock.

Seen here is the Mountain Valley pipeline, which is a 42" interstate pipeline, but it shares the same 50 foot easement and similarly traverses varied terrain.



Headings from Otsego 2000's Feb 27th, 2015 comment to FERC:

- I. Proposed crossing methods fail to protect waters and wetlands of the state**
- II. Construction plans fail to protect trout streams**
- III. The ecological value of established wetlands in pristine, undisturbed landscapes must not be ignored.**
- IV. Proposed Greenfield corridor maximizes environmental harm**
- V. Forest fragmentation and degradation of ecosystems have been ignored**
- VI. Invasive species are ignored and herbicides use is flawed**
- VII. Water withdrawal and discharge impacts have been overlooked**
- VIII. Planned construction practices will not withstand weather impacts**
- IX. Past corporate violations must be considered**
- X. Impacts of fracking and climate change must be considered**
- XI. Impacts of gas infrastructure build out must be cumulatively considered**

A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN: A pipeline across the Schoharie Creek.

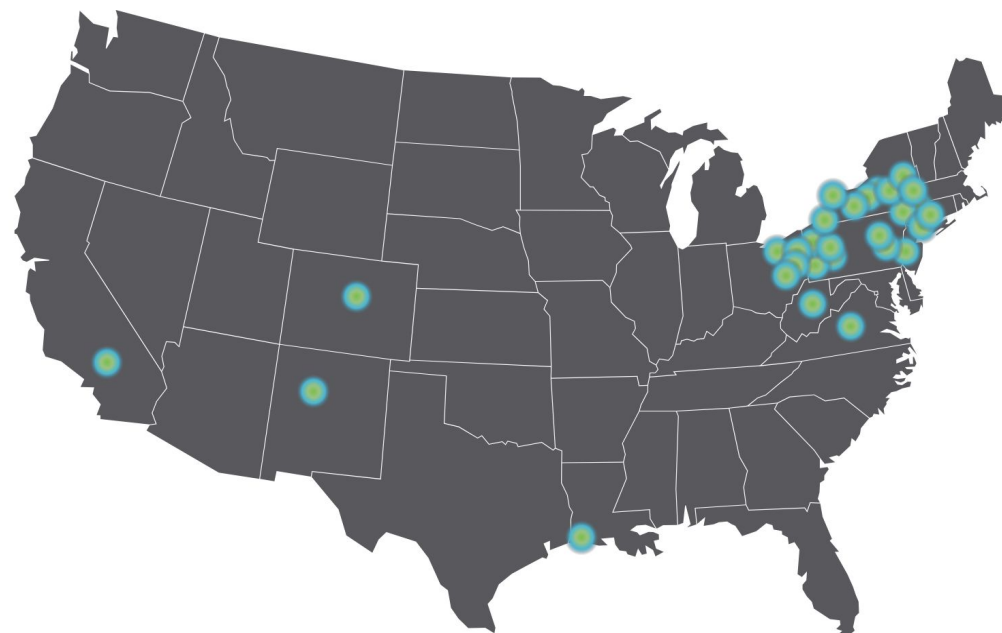


Oil & Gas Infrastructure: Impacts on Air Quality and Health

About Environmental Health Project

ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH PROJECT
DEFENDING PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE 2012

- EHP is a nonprofit organization that defends **public health** in the face of oil and gas development.
- We provide frontline communities with timely air monitoring, interpretation, and guidance.
- We engage impacted communities, health professionals, researchers, non-profit collaborators, policymakers, and others.
- Our program areas include:
 - Air quality analysis
 - Health education
 - Policy and advocacy



Pipeline Pollution



Gas Infrastructure System

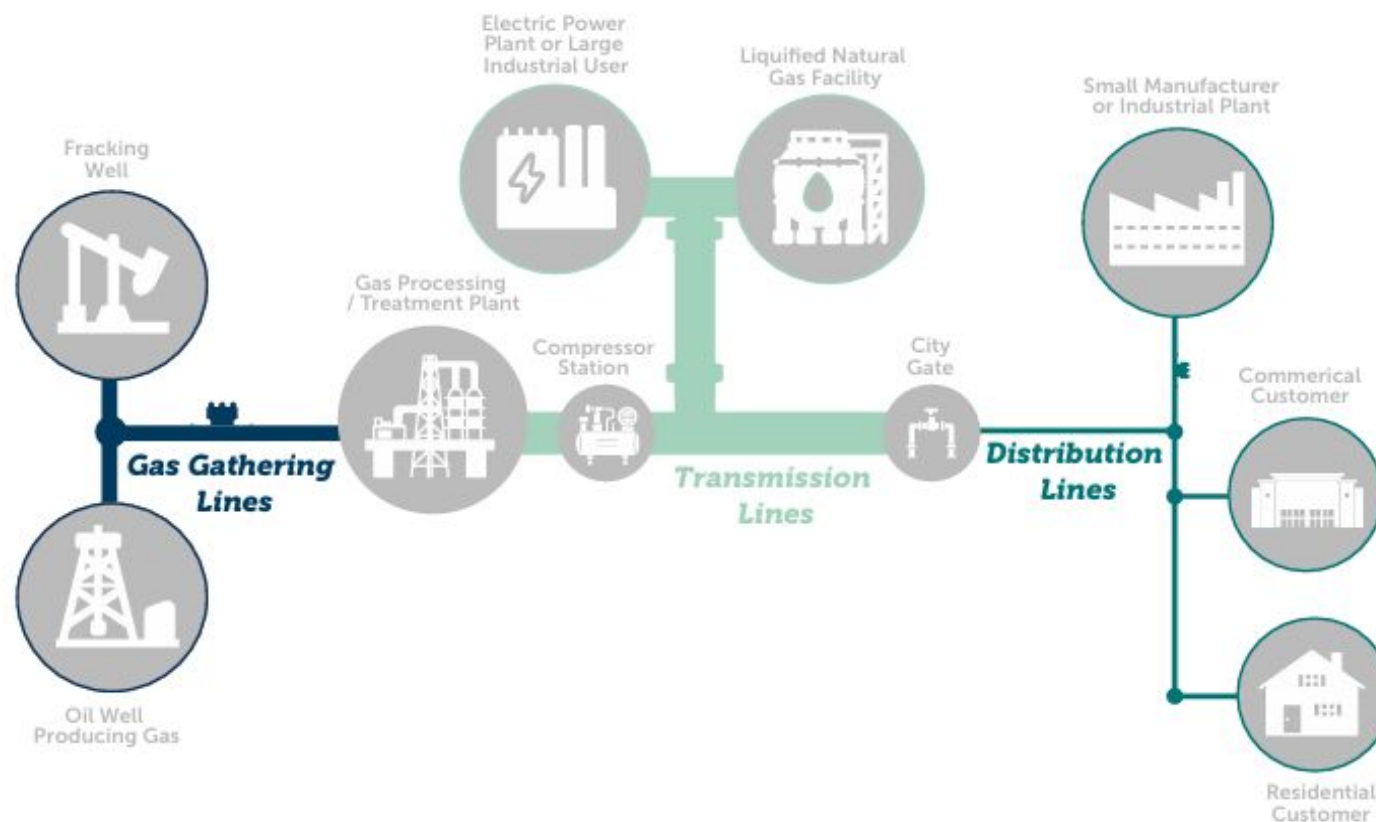


Diagram of Gathering, Transmission and Distribution Lines

Pipeline Safety Trust [Briefing Paper 2: Pipeline Basics and Specifics About Natural Gas Pipelines](#)

Pipeline infrastructure

Constitution Pipeline route
(FERC, 12/19/2025, corrected 4/10/2026)

Status

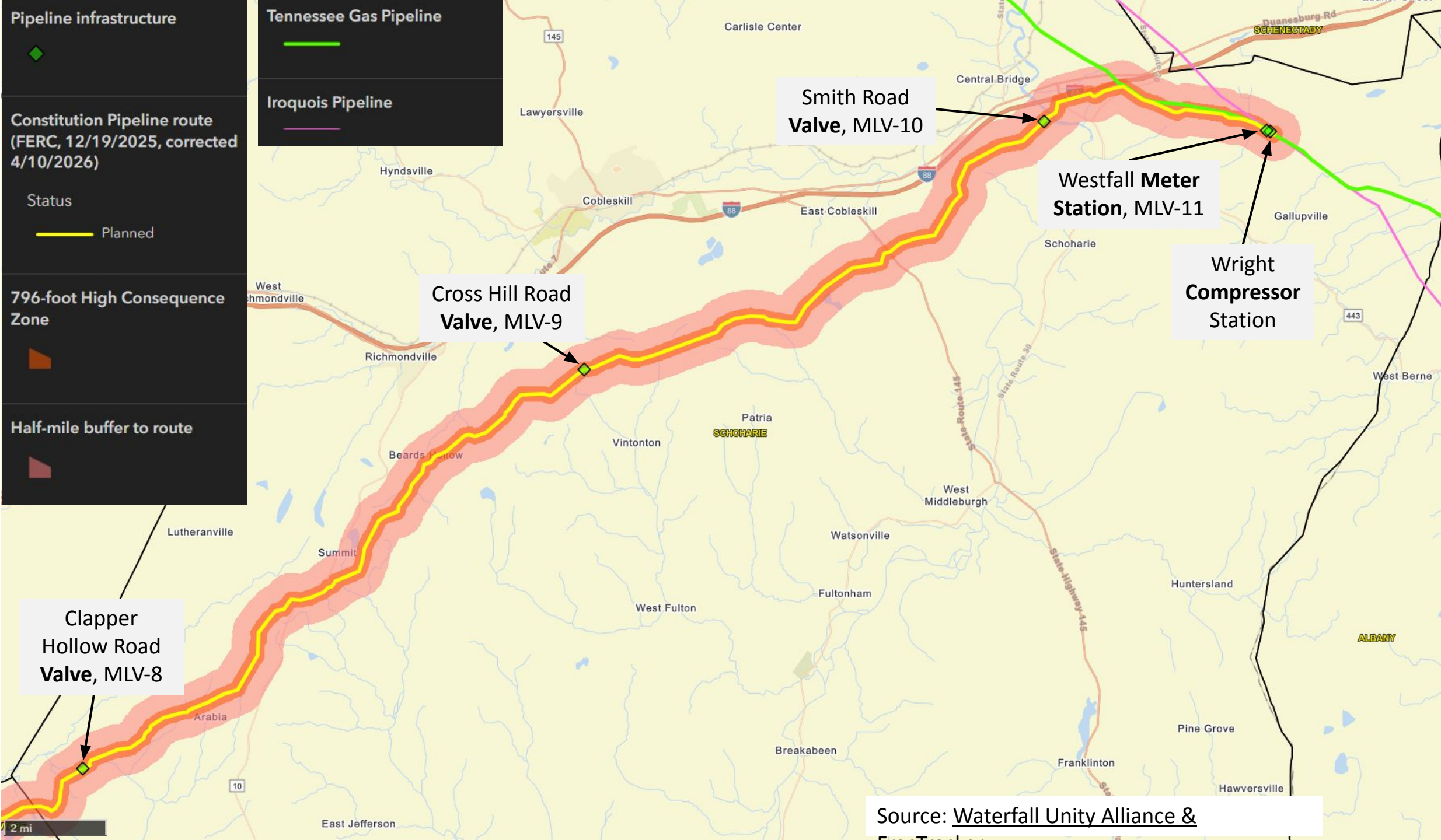
Planned

796-foot High Consequence Zone

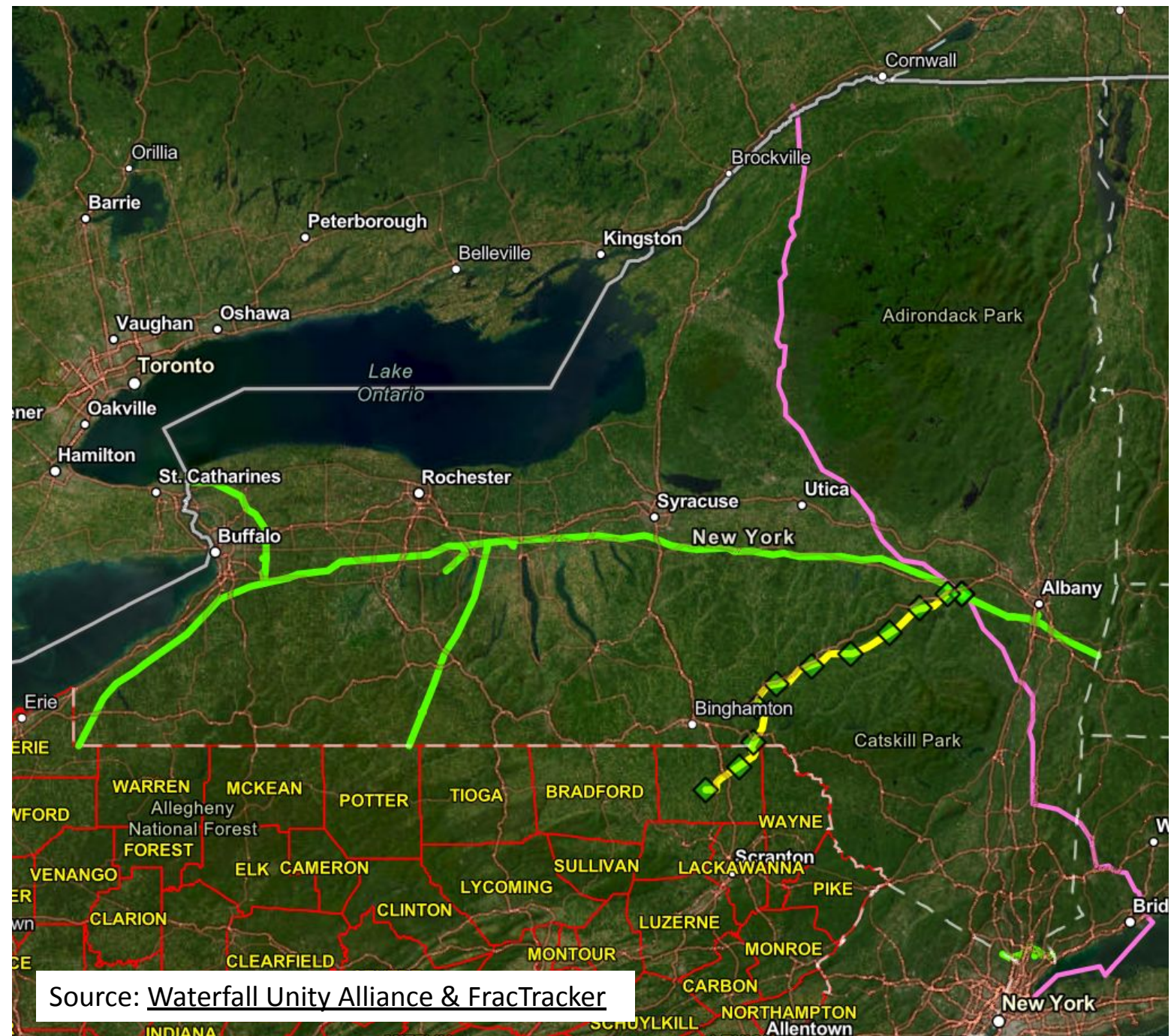
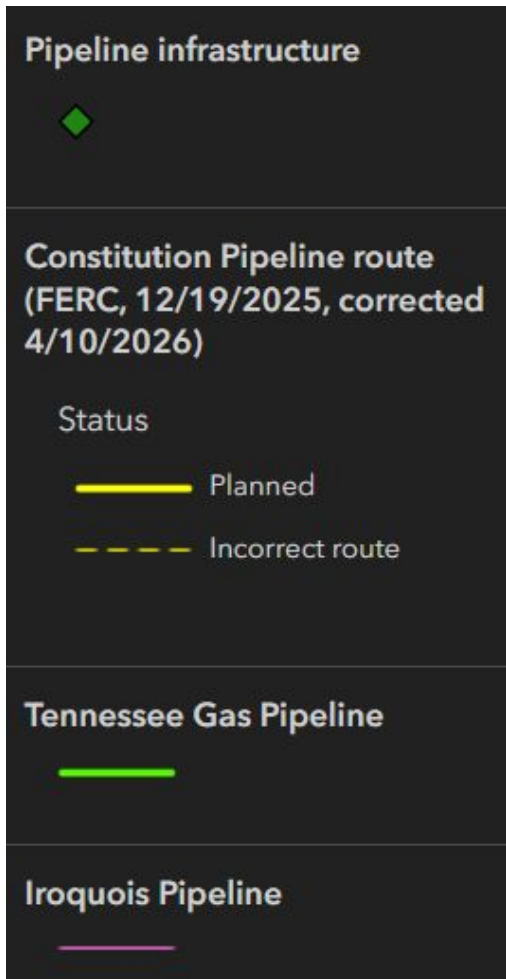
Half-mile buffer to route

Tennessee Gas Pipeline

Iroquois Pipeline



Source: Waterfall Unity Alliance & Friends of the Pipeline



Proposed Infrastructure

- 124 miles of pipeline
- 10 communication towers
- 11 mainline valves
- New compressor facility and modifications at the Wright Compressor Station (Wright Interconnect Project). These changes would increase the facility's operations to 2-3 times its current capacity.
- 2 Metering and Regulation Stations
 - Turnpike Road Receipt Station – includes kickoff valve, interconnecting piping, and pig launcher
 - Westfall Road Delivery Station – includes last valve on the transmission pipeline, interconnecting piping, and pig launcher
- More info [here](#).

Pipelines

- Transport **gas** (methane, hydrogen) and **liquids** (crude oil, diesel, jet fuel, ethane, butane, propane, and other toxic/flammable liquids)
- Placed above- or under-ground
- **Disrupts** forested areas and community spaces
- Leaks can **contaminate** air and water nearby
- Buildup of **toxic, radioactive, or otherwise hazardous materials** inside pipelines requires cleaning
- Can freeze, corrode, or break
- Reportable incidents occur roughly 600 times each year in the U.S., resulting in dozens of injuries and fatalities
 - Across Gas distribution/Gas gathering/Gas transmission/Hazardous liquids: ~583 reported incidents/accidents per year, ~12 fatalities per year, and ~52 injuries per year on average



Source: Sierra Shamer, FracTracker Alliance, 2016.

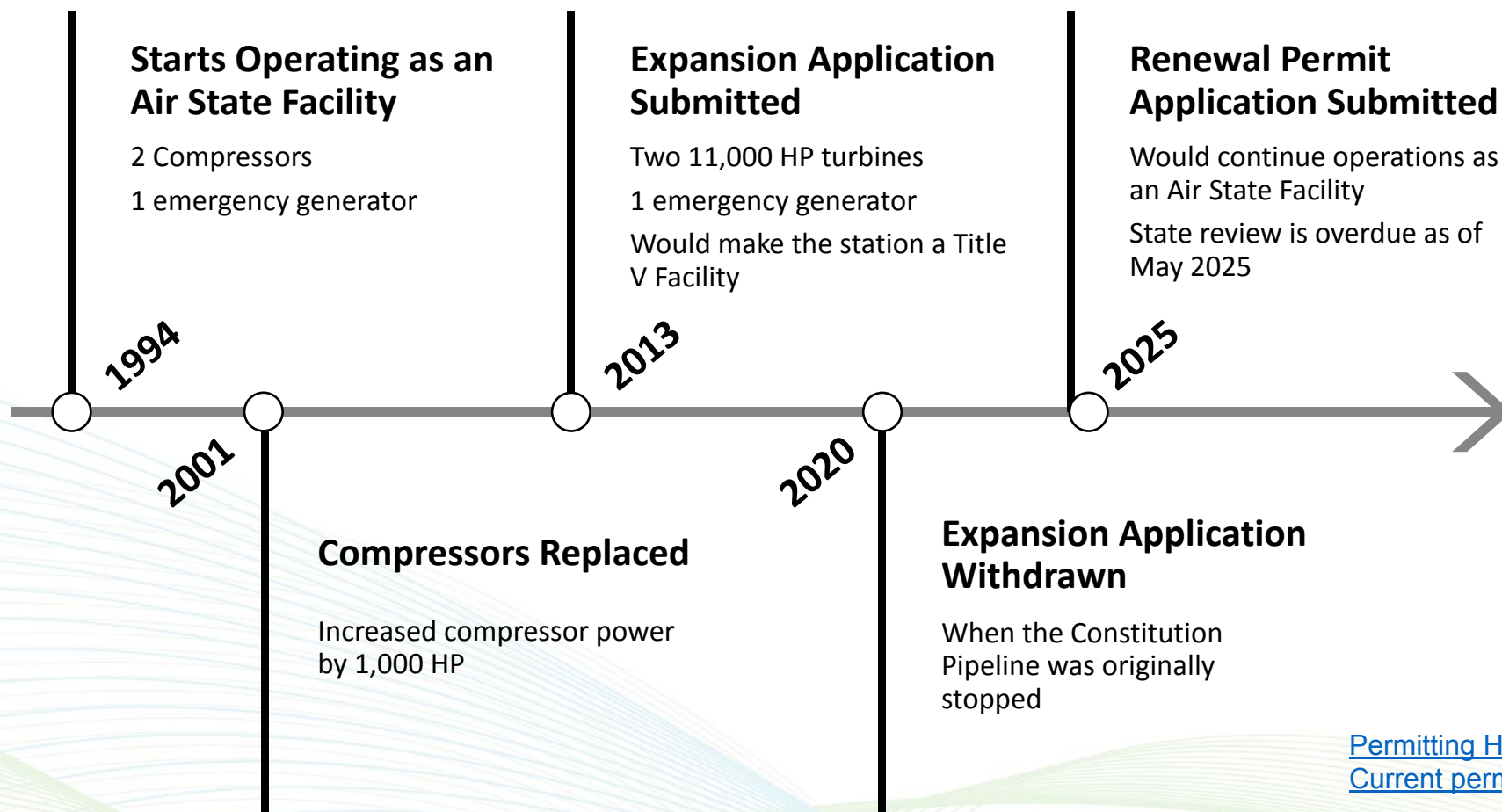
Compressor Stations

- Pipeline facility that keeps gas flowing and under pressure
- Intermittent intentional pollution releases (venting or blowdown events)
- Flares, leaks, and fuel combustion are also sources of air pollution
- Noisy, 24/7 operations
- Shorter stacks release pollution closer to the ground



Source: Google Maps

Wright Compressor Station: Timeline



[Permitting History](#)
[Current permit](#)

Pipeline Valves

- Pipeline equipment that allow the pipeline flow to be controlled for maintenance or closed during emergencies
- Also known as Main Line Valves or Block Valves
- May be associated with other infrastructure
 - **Pigging stations:** equipment used for cleaning operations and inspection
 - **Metering stations:** facilities that measure gas flow
 - **Regulating stations:** facilities that control pipeline pressure
- Leaks and venting/blowdowns release air pollution



Source: Shannon Smith, FracTracker Alliance, 2021.

Pipeline Air Pollution

Exhaust Stacks



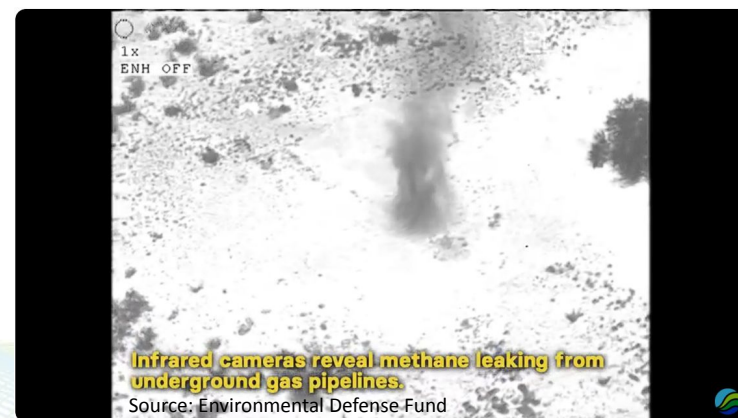
Flares



Blowdowns



Leaks



Air Pollutants of Greatest Concern

- Volatile Organic Compounds
 - Benzene
 - Toluene
 - Ethylbenzene
 - Xylene
 - Formaldehyde
- Particulate Matter
- Nitrogen Oxides
- Greenhouse Gases (Methane, Carbon Dioxide)



Source: Brook Lenker, FracTracker Alliance, 2021.

Pipeline Risks



Misconception: Pipeline failures are rare.



Reality: Pipeline failures and incidents are not rare.

In the United States, a significant incident occurs 5 out of every 7 days across all types of pipelines. Although the risk of failure in any one location is low, every year there are, on average, about 100 reported incidents on gas transmission lines and about 100 reported incidents on gas distribution lines. None of these failures are acceptable.

Learn more: [PST's Monthly Incident Dashboard](#) and [Statistics Page](#), PHMSA's [Data and Statistics Page](#)

Pipeline Risks



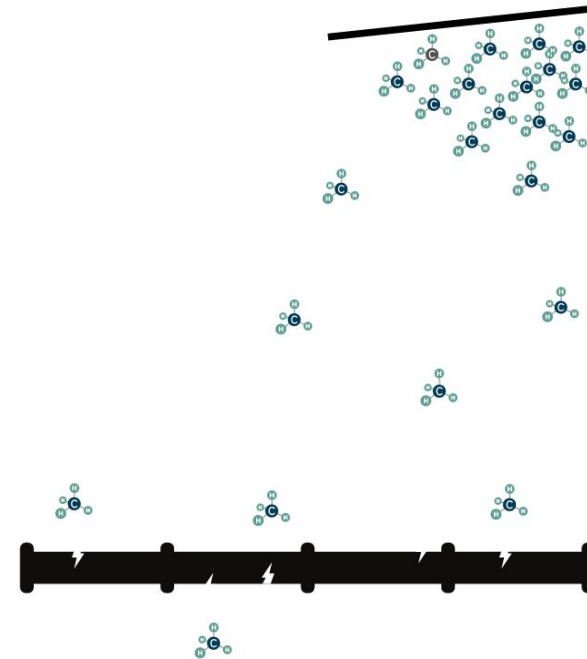
Misconception: Methane is not harmful to release into the atmosphere.



Reality: Methane released from pipelines can pose risks to public safety and health even where you might not expect it, and methane released to the atmosphere also has climate impacts as a powerful heat-trapping gas.

While some leaks are certainly more dangerous than others, even small leaks may migrate underground and get trapped in unexpected places to reach an explosion risk. Repeated exposure to methane and its co-pollutants can cause health impacts such as asthma and the development of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Beyond leaks, operators pose risks to air quality locally and climate change globally during routine operations such as venting gas from pipelines also known as blow downs and burning off released methane known as flaring.

Learn More: [Methane Information](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, [Methane Information](#) from EarthJustice, GeoHeath Article: [Air Quality and Health Impacts of Onshore Oil and Gas Flaring and Venting](#), PST Supported Study: [Blowdown Emissions and Mitigation Options](#), [Estimates of Natural Gas Venting and Flaring](#) from the U.S. Energy Information Administration



Pipeline Risks

- ✘ Misconception: If a gas pipeline is leaking, I'll always be able to smell it.
- ✔ Reality: Although we associate a rotten egg smell with natural gas, you may not always be able to smell a leak.

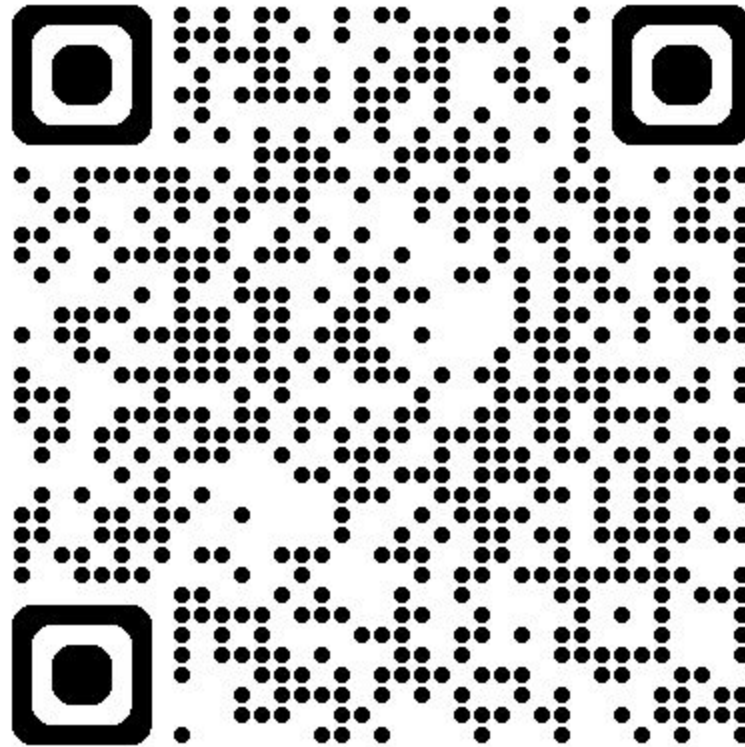


Some leaks are not detectable by smell and the gas in some pipelines, especially larger transmission lines, does not have the characteristic smell at all. This is because the odor is not actually from the methane itself but is either an artificial odorant, usually a mercaptan, that is required to be added by the operator in some (but not all) pipelines or hydrogen sulfide that often accompanies the methane from underground. Additionally, gas can travel through soil and after even a short distance this 'gas migration' can remove the odorant, so it no longer has a smell. In recent years, there has been a proposed expansion of pipelines carrying other gases such as hydrogen and CO₂, both of which can be harmful but do not have an identifiable smell.

Learn More: [What is Mercaptan?](#), [PST Briefing Paper #2 Pipeline Basics and Specifics About Natural Gas Pipelines](#), [NTSB Accident Report: Atmos Energy Corp. Natural Gas-Fueled Explosion Dallas, TX](#) – see page 57

Common Misconceptions about Gas Pipelines

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HEALTH PROJECT
DEFENDING PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE 2012



Health Impacts

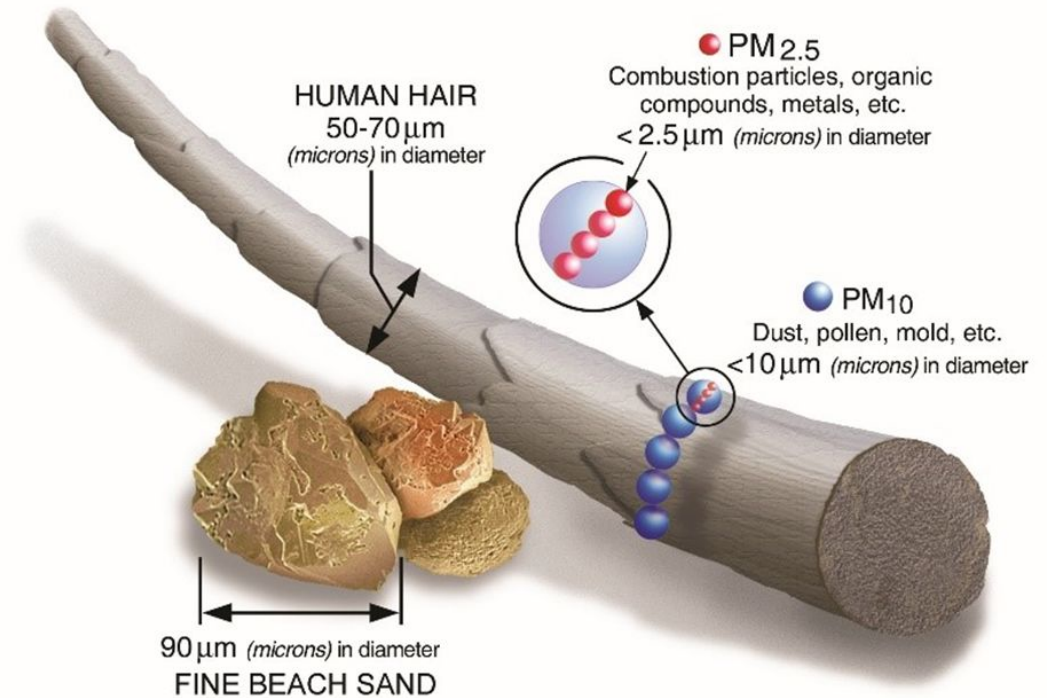
Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

Sources

- Combustion
 - Exhaust stacks
 - Flaring

Health Impacts:

- Respiratory
- Cardiovascular
- Neurological
- Cancer



Source: Environmental Protection Agency

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

Sources

- Incomplete combustion
 - Exhaust stacks
 - Flaring
- Direct release (no combustion)
 - Blowdowns
 - Leaks

Health Effects

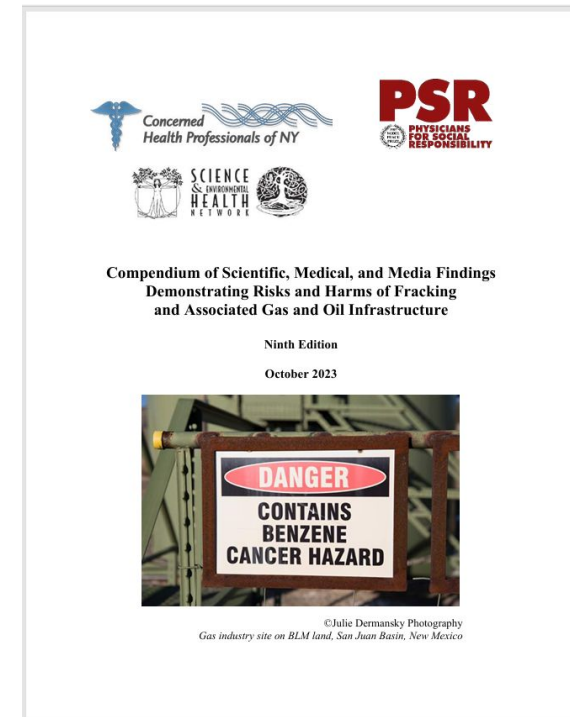
- Compound dependent*
- Respiratory irritation
- Headaches
- Dizziness

Chemical	Sources	Short term Exposures, Acute Health Symptoms	Long term Exposures, Chronic Health Effects
Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC's)	Well pads Compressor Stations Processing Facilities	Varies with individual chemical. See following examples: Benzene, Ethyl Benzene, Toluene, Xylene	Varies with individual chemical. See following examples.
*Benzene	Same as above	Headache, dizziness	Aplastic anemia, leukemia
*Ethyl benzene	Same as above	Eye and throat irritation	Possible carcinogen
*Toluene	Same as above	Headaches, sleepiness, confusion	Possible permanent neurological problems
*Xylenes	Same as above	Eye, nose, throat , and skin irritation	Possible permanent neurological effects.
Methylene Chloride	Well pads	Decreased attentiveness and decreased hand-eye coordination	Cancer
Formaldehyde	Well pads Compressor Stations Processing Facilities	Nose and eye irritation, impaired short term memory, asthma attacks	Asthma, eczema, nasal and throat cancer
Diesel Exhaust (contains VOC's and PM2.5)	Well pads Compressor Stations Truck traffic	Eye, nose, throat and lung irritation. Headaches, dizziness, nausea	Worsening respiratory disease, lung cancer
Hydrogen sulfide	Well pad	Eye, nose, and throat irritation. Asthma attacks.	Eye, nose, and throat irritation. Worsening asthma.

Health Impacts

Research studies show correlations between living near compressor stations and:

- Respiratory problems, such as asthma, worsened allergies, and decreased lung function
- Cardiovascular problems, such as heart disease and hypertension
- Cognitive impacts in children
- Sleep disturbance
- Mental health impacts
- Cancer, including lung, thyroid, and blood
- Adverse birth outcomes, including preterm birth, low birth weight, and postpartum depression
- Premature mortality



Source: PSR (2023)

Health Risk Considerations

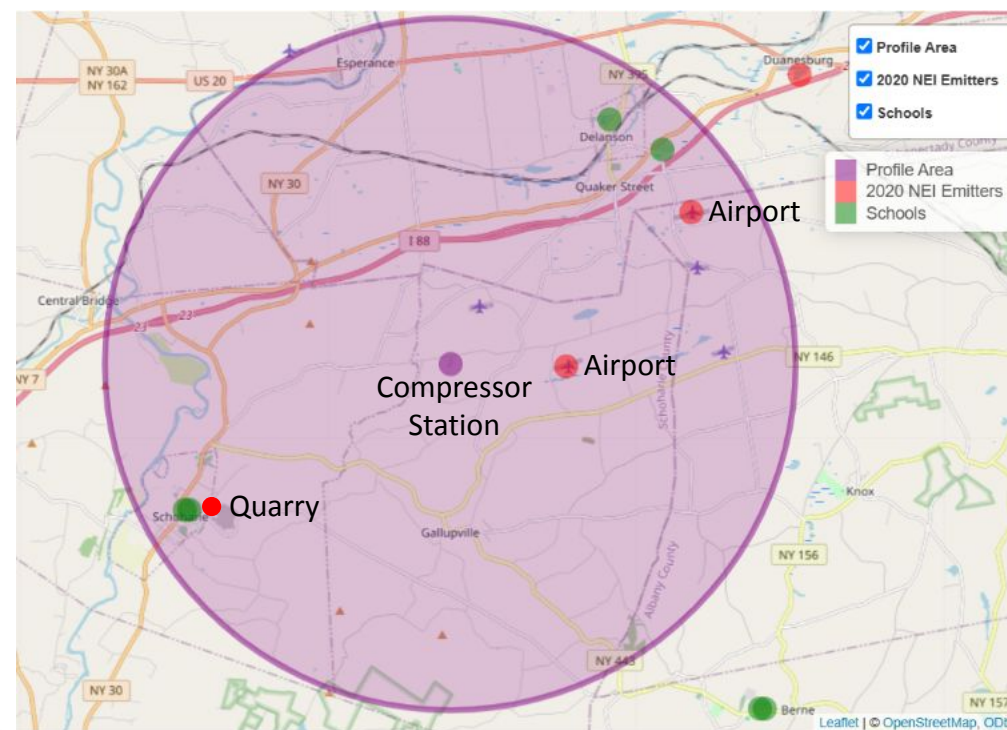
- Pre-existing health conditions
- Age
- Proximity to compressor station
- Length and frequency of exposure
- Cumulative exposures to other sources of pollution
- Topography, predominant wind directions, and weather conditions



Source: National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS)

Community Impacts

- Within a 5-mile radius of the compressor station there are
 - 4 schools
 - 3 other emitters
 - A high prevalence of
 - Asthma (68th percentile in NY, 70th in the US)
 - COPD (75th percentile in NY, 64th percentile in the US)
 - Cancer (72nd percentile in NY, 69th in the US)
 - Coronary heart disease (69th percentile in NY, 53rd in the US)



Recommendations to Protect Your Health

How to Protect Your Health

- **Check Outdoor Air Quality Forecasts**
 - [AirNow](#)
 - [New York DEC AQI Alerts](#)
- **Consult with a Medical Professional**
 - Health journal
- **Report Environmental Concerns**
 - Submit any concerning pollution events (e.g., odors, visible air emissions, etc.) to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation by completing [an online form](#) or by calling 212-637-4040.
 - If you observe an environmental concern that requires an immediate emergency response, please call 911 or 800-424-8802.

How to Protect Your Health

- Close Your Windows, when possible
- Use an Air Purifier
 - [Austin Air Healthmate](#)
 - DIY, low-cost fan/filter - learn more about [assembling your own fan/filter](#)

Resources

Pipeline Safety Resources

- [A Simple Guide to Understanding Pipeline Safety, Operations and Regulation](#) (PST)
- [Common Misconceptions about Gas Pipelines](#) (PST)
- [A Guide to Pipelines for Residents and Landowners](#) (PST)
- [Guide to Pipeline Safety Rulemaking](#) (PST)
- [An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on My Land? What Do I Need to know?](#) (FERC)
- [Processes for Natural Gas Certificates](#) (FERC)

EHP/Health Resources

- Factsheets
 - [Particulate Matter and Shale Gas Development](#)
 - [Volatile Organic Compounds, Shale Gas Development, and Your Health](#)
 - [Episodic Air Pollution Exposures and Shale Gas Development](#)
 - [Potential Health Effects Due to Inhalation of Air Pollutants](#)
 - [Tips for Talking with a Health Professional](#)
- Blog Post: [The Health and Safety Risks of Pipelines](#)
- Webpage: [Protecting Your Health](#)
- Infographic: [The Health Risks of Data Centers](#)

Next Steps

Environmental HealthWatch

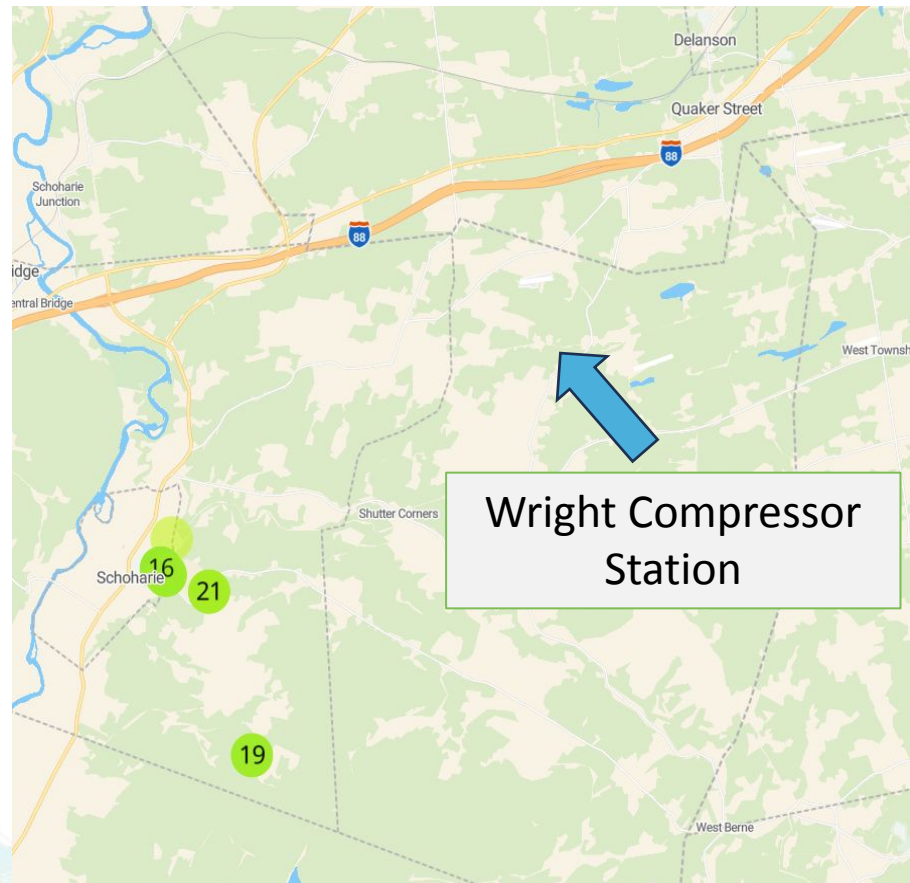
- Gather Information
 - Environmental – monitoring **particulate matter** (PM2.5) and **volatile organic compounds** (VOCs)
 - Health – public health **databases/tools**
- Report Findings
 - “AirView” app to view data online
 - Written **reports**
 - Share results in **community meetings**
- Drive Change
 - Provide **targeted** recommendations
 - Assist **advocacy efforts**



Photos courtesy of EHP staff, 2022

Current State of Local Air Monitoring

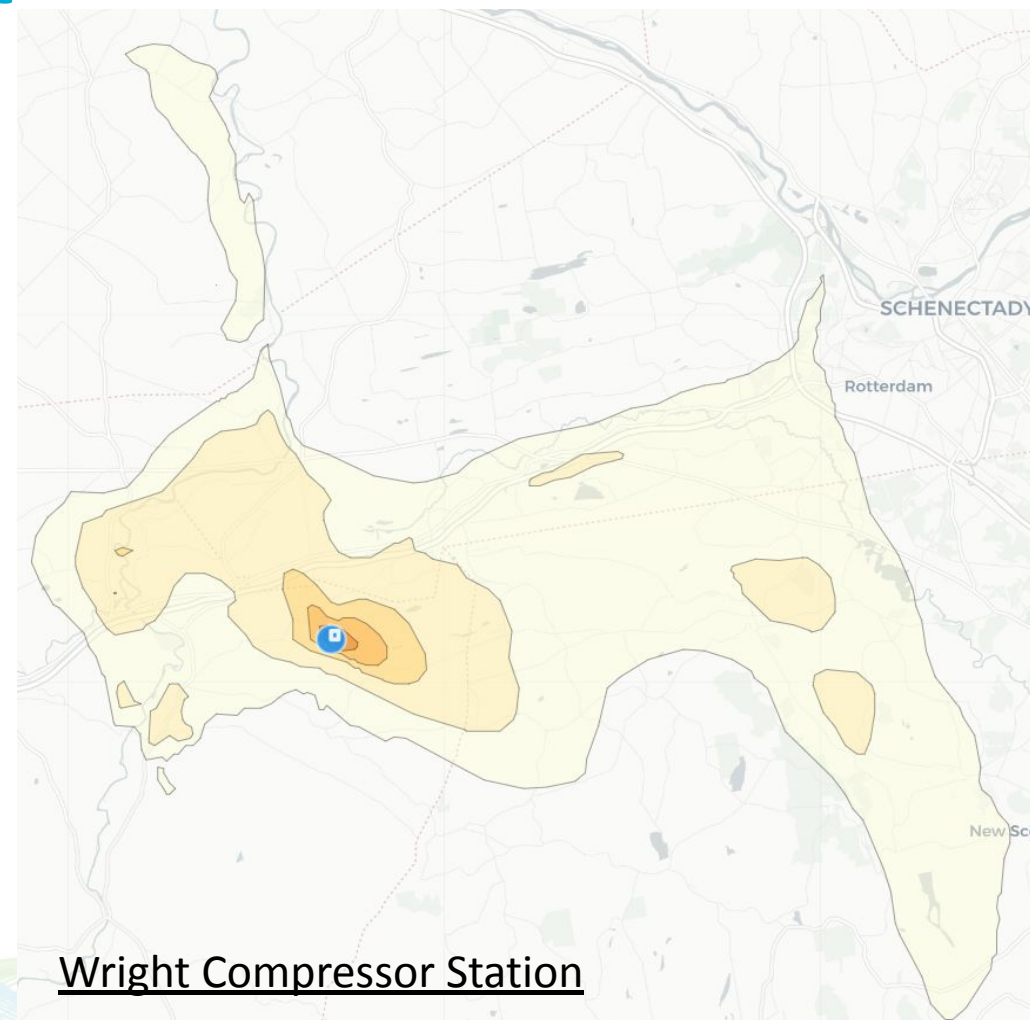
- HealthWatch provides 4 PurpleAir monitors to put around the facility of concern to help understand local air quality around the facility



Source: PurpleAir

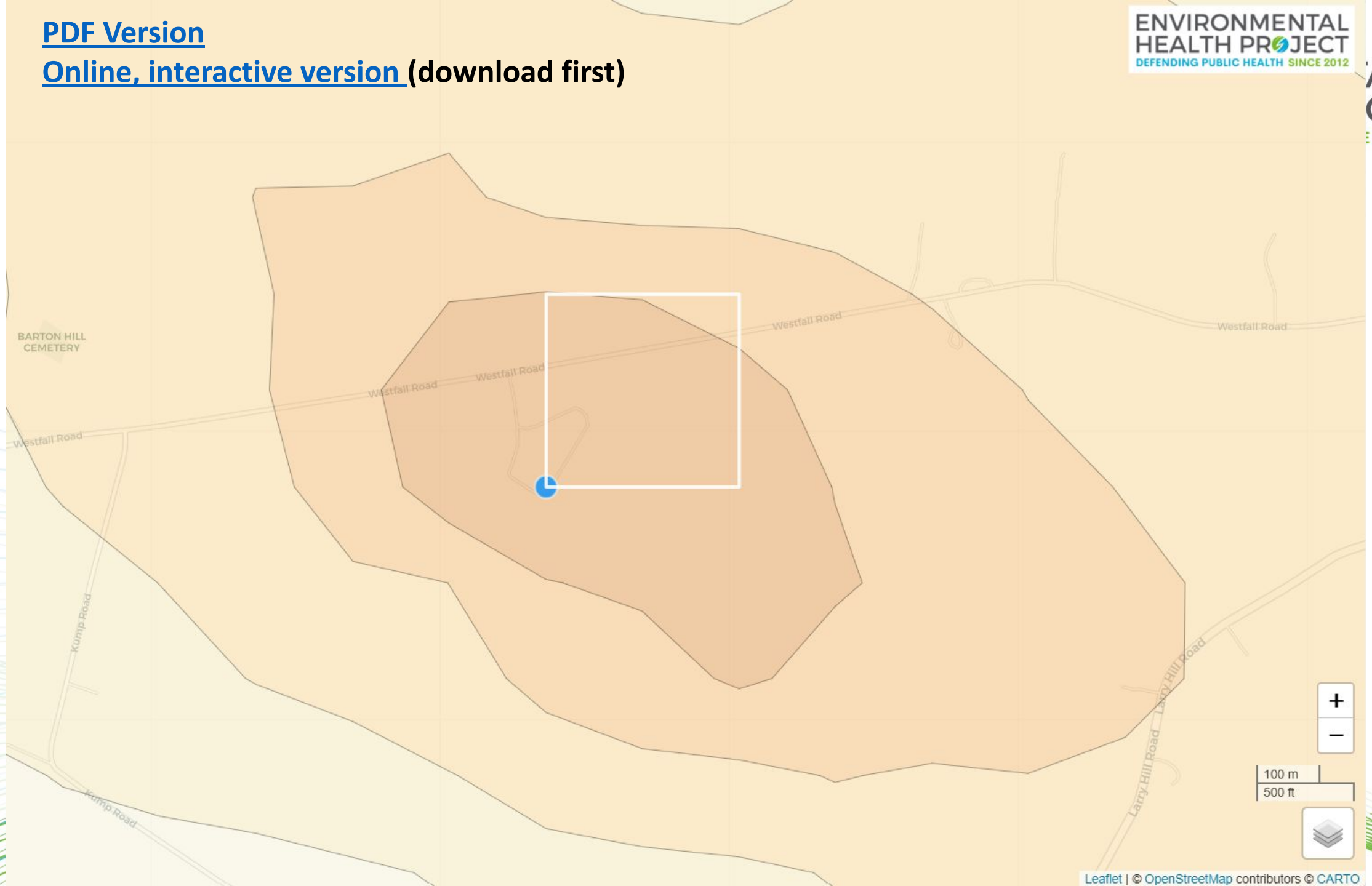
Pollution Dispersion Map

- Shows where primary air pollution from the Wright Compressor Station is expected to end up on average over the course of a year
- Interested in hosting an air monitor? Contact Tanja at tanja@waterfallcenter.org



[PDF Version](#)

[Online, interactive version](#) (download first)



AirView Public

- Once monitors are up, you will be able to see the air quality data being collected through EHP's tool AirView Public



For More Information

www.environmentalhealthproject.org

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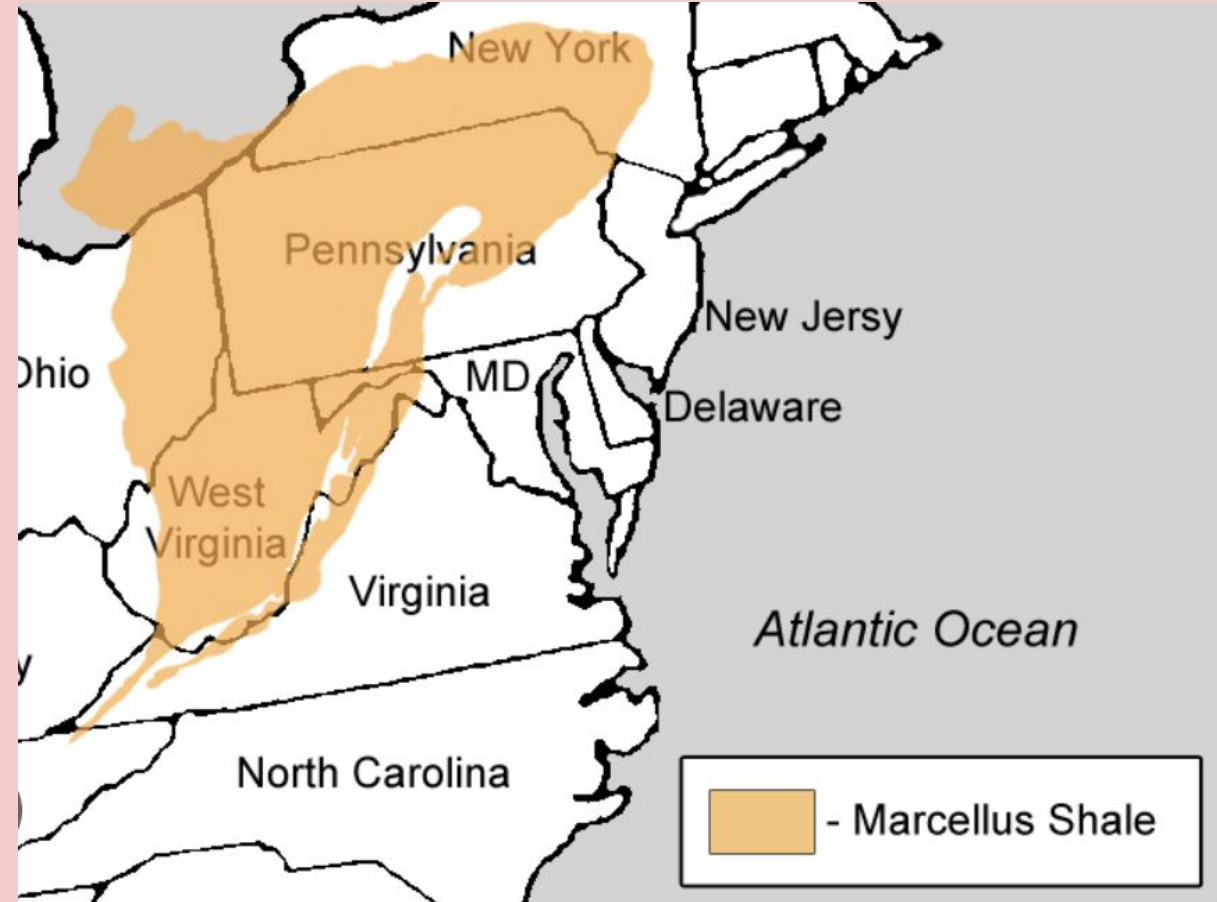
tmusil@environmentalhealthproject.org

REGIONAL THREATS: DATA CENTERS, FRACKING, and our FUTURE



A water tank at the Meta Data Center site in El Paso.

There are 38 large hyperscale data center project proposals under review by utility regulators in New York State.



WHAT TO DO NEXT

PUT UP A LAWN SIGN & TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, and FAMILY.

SIGN THE PETITION | tr.ee/stoptheconpetition

COMMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

To be released by FERC August 21st.

JOIN THE WOMEN'S WATER WALK: Sep 19 - Oct 3 | womenswaterwalk.org

Share your 'Why I walk' story @womenswaterwalk

GET INVOLVED: PROPOSE DATA CENTER AND FRACKING BANS IN YOUR CITY, TOWN, OR VILLAGE.

QUESTIONS?

STOP THE CON

ENVIRONMENTAL
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DEFENDING PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE 2012



WATERFALL UNITY ALLIANCE