Fact Sheet: Constitution Pipeline

Understanding It's Potential Impacts On Our Local Communities

WATERFALL UNITY ALLIANCE

Location: Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Schoharie Counties

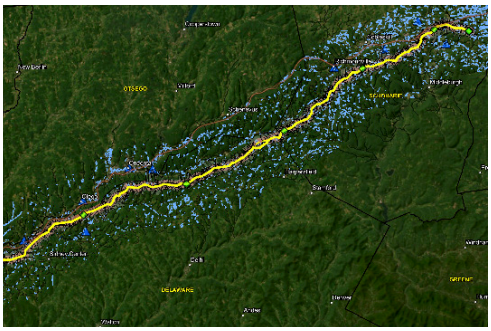
Introduction

The Constitution Pipeline is a pipeline of fracked gas proposed by the Oklahoma-based Williams Companies. The project would involve the construction of approximately 125 miles of new, 30-inch diameter, high pressure, liquid gas pipeline originating in north-eastern Pennsylvania, extending through Broome, Chenango, Delaware, and Schoharie Counties, in New York, and terminating at the Wright Compressor Station in the Town of Wright in Schoharie County.

The pipeline is proposed to run in Schoharie County through the following municipalities: Jefferson, Summit, Richmondville, Cobleskill, Middleburgh, Schoharie, and Wright.

The Constitution Pipeline would:

- **require the clearing of 1,872 acres of land;**
- **the destruction of approximately 700,000 trees on 1,034 acres of forest;**
- **cross 289 bodies of water, most of which are 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;**
- **have to blast through 45.5 miles of shallow bedrock;**
- **provide gas (energy) for factories, power plants, and AI data centers along the I-88 corridor.**



Map of the pipeline running through Delaware & Schoharie counties with wetland, public water supplies, and buffer zone layers. Map courtesy of FracTracker.

According to analyses by the Environmental Defense Fund, natural gas pipelines in the U.S. leak an estimated 1.2 - 2.7 million tons of methane per year

Gateway For Data Centers & Additional Large Scale Industry

The Constitution Pipeline is a threat to our water, farms, wilderness, and way of life – and will open the doorway to a corridor of AI data centers hungry for energy and access to water. The clustering of energy-intensive data centers near these pipelines can further strain local
water resources due to cooling demands and increased air pollution from associated power generation. For nearby communities, this combination raises concerns about respiratory illnesses, water contamination, and long-term exposure to industrial activity. The Williams Company has tailored its business model to work alongside data centers and it is rapidly expanding into the AI sector, as evidenced by their recently-approved Socrates South Power Generation Project that will power a Meta-affiliated data center in Pike County, Ohio.

The impacts to communities do not STOP once construction is complete.

← LISTEN TO A COMPRESSOR BLOWDOWN

POTENTIAL PIPELINE RISKS & CONCERNS

FIRES & EXPLOSIONS

METHANE EMISSIONS

CONTAMINATION

HUMAN HEALTH

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

THREAT TO STATE & LOCAL POWER TO PROTECT PEOPLE, LAND & WATER

Under Clean Water Act Section 401, New York State holds powerful veto authority over federal energy and infrastructure projects through the NYSDEC Protection of Waters Program, allowing the state to block pipelines or hydropower licenses. In January 2026, EPA in NY proposed to revise its Section 401 - implementing regulation rollbacks and reducing the ability of state and tribal certifying authorities to reject federal permits for projects that pollute local waterways.

CONSTITUTION PIPELINE: MORE DAMAGE, NO MEANINGFUL BENEFIT

According to Dan Dolan, president of the New England Power Generators Association, "The major problem is that the pipeline wouldn't actually bring much, if any, new gas into New England, the proposed market for the fracked gas. The Constitution pipeline would terminate in Schoharie County, New York, where it would connect to pipes that already carry gas into New England. That existing infrastructure is the true bottleneck."

"The pipes into and around New England are narrow and limited, so bringing a higher volume of gas into New York doesn't mean more can flow throughout the neighboring region. There are no plans in the works to alleviate those constraints, and the models for funding such projects make it highly unlikely there will be any proposals for pipelines into or within New England in the near future," Dolan said. "I am not aware of any large-scale gas supply projects into New England today. Until there is a way to increase that, I struggle to see how the Constitution changes anything meaningful for us."

Wright Compressor Station - Source - Google Earth

Quote Source: https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/fossil-fuels/constitution-pipeline-zeldin-energy-prices

Infrared thermal image of methane gas leak, otherwise undetected, at fracked gas facility in New Mexico. Photo by Shaun Stanley

RISKS OF EXPLOSIONS

March 13, 1990 Blenheim Pipeline Explosion
Photo from The Daily Star, Oneonta

The proposed 30" Constitution Pipeline is designed to move approximately 650,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day. The current Constitution application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission {FERC), {Pub_26 pll 1.2.2) states the: "maximum allowable operating pressure {MAOP) of 1,480 pounds per square inch gauge" {psig).

The calculated High Consequence Area (HCA) for a 30 INCH pipeline operating at 1480 psig is approximately 800 FEET outward on either side of the pipeline. The main risk with a high-pressure natural gas pipeline is a rupture and ensuing fire. Ruptures can occur, and have occurred, due to external forces on the pipe {such as being struck during digging), from internal and external corrosion of the pipe, flooding and storm events, and from failed welds.

A local example of a pipeline explosion occurred in Blenheim, NY, on March 13, 1990. This pipeline was only 8" in diameter, and carried liquid propane. It killed two community members and flattened 14 structures.

HEALTH HAZARDS

Gas flowing through pipelines, which have detectable levels of pollutants like benzene, can escape into the air. Compressor stations are known to release about 70 air pollutants, 39 of which are linked to cancer. In 2020, a study linked proximity to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from compressor stations to higher death rates. This infrastructure also carries a risk of explosions. Between 2003 and 2024, gas pipelines caused 222 fatalities and about 1,000 injuries. Compressor stations can also ignite.

More information:

PIPELINE POLLUTANTS

SOURCE: https://earthworks.org/issues/compressor-stations/

Sulfur dioxide (SO2)

- Harmful to the respiratory system and make breathing difficult; people with asthma, particularly children, are sensitive to these effects.
- At high concentrations, it can harm trees and plants by damaging foliage and decreasing growth.
- Can contribute to acid rain that can harm sensitive ecosystems.

Nitrogen oxides (NOx)

- Can irritate airways in the respiratory system.
- Long exposures to elevated concentrations may contribute to the development of asthma and respiratory infections.
- People with asthma, children, and the elderly are generally at greater risk for the health effects
- Interacts with water, oxygen and other chemicals in the atmosphere to form acid rain.

Carbon monoxide (CO)

- When CO levels are elevated outdoors, they can be of particular concern for people with some types of heart disease; short-term exposure to elevated CO may result in reduced oxygen to the heart accompanied by chest pain, also known as angina.

Particulate matter (PM)

- Contains microscopic solids or liquid droplets that are so small that they can be inhaled and cause serious health problems. Some particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter can get deep into the lungs and some may even get into the bloodstream.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

- Are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects.
- Health effects may include: eye, nose, and throat irritation, headaches, loss of coordination and nausea, damage to liver, kidney, and central nervous system.
- Some organics can cause cancer in animals - some are suspected or known to cause cancer in humans.

Methane

- Methane is a potent greenhouse gas. Its primary threat functions as an asphyxiant, similar to the threat posed by carbon monoxide exposure. When inhaled, it displaces ambient air, thus depriving the body of oxygen needed to breathe. Higher concentrations lead to less oxygen availability and a range of symptoms may be experienced, including:
- Rapid breathing, increased heart rate, clumsiness and dizziness, decreased vision, especially in low lights,
- euphoria, decreased alertness, loss of memory, weakness, fatigue, emotional responses, nausea and vomiting, fainting and collapse, convulsions, coma, and death.

Potential Environmental Consequences

During Construction

- Forest clearing and habitat fragmentation: removal of vegetation can reduce habitat and divide connected forest areas.
- Soil disturbance and erosion: excavation and heavy equipment can compact soils, increase erosion, and affect agricultural productivity.
- Stream and wetland impacts: crossings can disturb streambanks, aquatic habitat, wetlands, and water quality.
- Changes to drainage: grading and soil disturbance can alter surface and groundwater movement.
- Spills and pollution: accidental releases of fuel, lubricants, or construction materials could affect soil and water.
- Invasive species: disturbed soils and construction equipment can facilitate their spread.

After Construction

- Permanent habitat fragmentation: the maintained right-of-way can remain a break in forest and wildlife habitat.
- Ongoing vegetation management: restrictions on trees and woody vegetation can prevent natural forest regeneration.
- Long-term erosion and drainage concerns: disturbed soils and altered drainage may persist beyond construction.
- Leaks or ruptures: a pipeline failure could affect soil, groundwater, streams, wetlands, wildlife, and nearby properties.
- Maintenance impacts: inspections, vegetation management, repairs, and access can cause recurring localized disturbance.
- Cumulative impacts: pipeline impacts may interact with existing development, roads, agriculture, flooding, and other changes within the watershed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT waterfallunityalliance.org/constitutionpipeline