

## News Release

For Release: Immediate

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### **“New Environmental Group Established in Madison County”**

Average citizens are becoming more involved in the fight to protect the environment by means of state and local regulation and corporate oversight. One such “citizen’s action group” has recently formed in Madison County to attempt to lobby local, state, and even Federal regulatory bodies in the rapidly expanding natural gas industry. This new single focus organization is linking with other, more broadly based environmental groups within New York State and beyond.

“With the current emphasis on examining high volume hydraulic fracturing in New York, our group is anticipating having an impact on other areas of natural gas production, specifically gas transmission pipeline and other infrastructure” said Liz Haskins, co-founder and co-chair of Madison County Neighbors for Environmental Preservation (MCNEP). “While most of the attention is currently being focused on ‘fracking’, the gas companies are attempting to build new pipelines and transmission facilities to move natural gas from operations in other states to ports in the East where the gas can be containerized and shipped to Europe for much higher profit.”

This infrastructure buildout has had a negative effect on quality of life concerns in other states and members of MCNEP intend to bring this into the energy debate. In order for the gas companies to move ever-increasing amounts of gas over greater distances, they need to rebuild existing pipelines, build new pipelines, and build “compressor stations” along those pipelines. These compressor stations create pressure within the pipelines to propel the gas more quickly to its final destination. And the compressor stations are a primary focus area of MCNEP.

In states that have seen a significant increase in natural gas facility creation (like Colorado and West Virginia), residents are complaining of health concerns. From seemingly minor problems like nose bleeds to much more alarming situations like dramatic increases in childhood cancer, many citizens and scientists are calling for more study of the side-effects of the natural gas industry on nearby residents. The call is increasingly for further scientific study before new facilities are built to establish baselines to track potential future changes.

“All we are really asking for is a slowdown in development to have the chance at meaningful studies”, explained Ruthanne Stone (co-founder and co-chair). “We want others to know that this unrestrained development may be having some very negative consequences and that citizens need answers. They need to know that regulators are actually protecting them.”

For more information, please contact MCNEP at [madcopreservation@aol.com](mailto:madcopreservation@aol.com) or visit their website (<http://madcopreservation.com/>) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/madcopreservation>).

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