



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New York District

NEWS RELEASE

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Corps denies Millennium Pipeline permit application

BUFFALO, NY—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in a coordinated response between the Pittsburgh, Buffalo and New York districts, today denied without prejudice a permit application by the Millennium Pipeline Company to construct an underground natural gas pipeline across southern New York.

Army regulations prohibit the Corps from issuing a permit for a project where a required state authorization has been denied. The denial without prejudice means that there is no prejudice to the right of the applicant to reinstate processing of the Department of the Army permit application if subsequent approval is received from the State of New York. If the applicant successfully completes the State process and receives the Coastal Zone Management Consistency concurrence, the Corps will then resume processing the application.

The proposed pipeline would extend from an interconnect with TransCanada Pipelines Ltd., at the U.S./Canadian border, crossing Lake Erie with a landfall near Ripley, New York, and then across southern New York State to Mount Vernon, New York. Approximately 86 percent of the on-land pipeline would be constructed adjacent to or within existing rights-of-way. Approximately 414 acres of wetlands would be temporarily disturbed during construction of the pipeline. The pipeline would cross a total of 308 perennial streams, 199 intermittent water bodies, Lake Erie and the Hudson River.

In a letter to Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation, parent company of Millennium Pipeline, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hall, Buffalo district commander, outlined procedures for reinstating the application if the state requirements are met.

Additionally, “if your project is modified during the coastal zone management review, you may need to furnish ... an updated application package, and a supplemental Public Notice may be required to evaluate the modification,” he said.

“Please note that remaining issues that may require further evaluation include: concerns over the currently proposed Hudson River crossing at Haverstraw Bay, and the outstanding objections from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), particularly with regard to the impacts associated with the Haverstraw Bay crossing.”

“This is an example of one of the Corps’ basic operating principles that balances the concerns of our partnering agencies, the protection of our environment, and the needs of human development,” said Pat Jones, a Buffalo District spokesman.

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