

PF07-12-000

ROSCOE G. BARTLETT
6TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

2412 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 223-2721



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February 20, 2008

Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Reference Docket No. PF07-12-000

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing you concerning Reference Docket No. PF07-12-000. In particular, I am writing in reference to FERC's preparation of an environmental assessment to determine if a proposed natural gas pipeline 14,000 hp compressor station near Middletown, Maryland is in the public convenience and necessity. I am entrusted to represent residents affected by this proposal in Frederick County in the U.S. House of Representatives. As you carry out your responsibility, I would urge you to ensure that the following questions are answered about the Middletown Compressor Station. I appreciate the FERC's careful consideration of other questions and issues raised by 300 residents in the Middletown area at a February 6, 2008 Public Scoping Meeting at Middletown High School and other inputs filed in writing with the Commission.

- Does the identified 135-acre parcel from a willing seller and the subset 11-acre site proposed for the Middletown Compressor Station meet required buffer areas for a compressor station? The 135-acre property is zoned Agricultural and an industrial use would contravene the existing Frederick County Comprehensive Plan. Is approval for a zoning change by local officials required by the FERC to meet the standard of public convenience and necessity? The 135-acre parcel is surrounded by other properties, many with agricultural preservation easements. Will the acquisition of additional acreage be necessary to meet required buffer areas? Would the FERC approve the proposal as meeting the standard of public convenience and necessity if the acquisition of additional acreage involves the assertion of Eminent Domain?
- Will preservation of the viewscape around the proposed site for the Middletown Compressor station be required under the standard of public convenience and necessity? On and adjoining or within site of the property are significant historic

OFFICE OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
700 FEB 20 P 7:17
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

7360 GULFORD DRIVE
SUITE 101
FREDERICK, MD 21704
(301) 694-3030

1377 ROBIN WOOD DRIVE
SUITE F
MIDDLETOWN, MD 21762
(301) 797-4046

1 FREDERICK STREET
SUITE 2
CUMBERLAND, MD 21602
(301) 724-3105

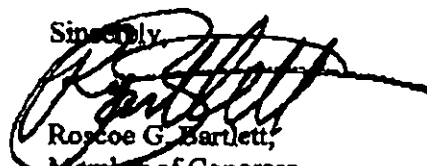
15 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE 11C
WESTMINSTER, MD 21157
(410) 837-1115

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sites and a state park. The Appalachian Trail winds through Gathland State Park <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/gathland.html> which also has important portions of the site of the first Civil War battle in Maryland, the Battle of South Mountain <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southmt/battle.html>. The battle which began on September 14, 1862, involved two future Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley, and led directly to the Battle of Antietam. Nearly \$4 million has been spent to protect approximately 1,313 acres of the historic battlefield at South Mountain -- through Program Open Space. Much of this acreage has been preserved through easements. The site also contains the historic John Fox Tavern at which George Washington stayed. Will preservation of and public access to this building be a requirement to meet the standard of public convenience and necessity?

- The proposed site of the Middletown Compressor Station in Middletown Valley is an area whose topography and geography naturally traps and concentrates air pollutants. Will calculations be required to determine anticipated levels of additional emissions when the compressor is in operation? Is compliance with regulations limiting pollutants under the Clean Air Act and other relevant laws required to meet the standard of public convenience and necessity?
- Will the FERC require sound cancellation or other technologies when the 14,000 hp compressor turbines are operating to maintain the existing low-decibel ambience of the area to meet the standard of public convenience and necessity?
- Will the FERC require an analysis of other potential alternative sites to satisfy the affected residents in Frederick County that the economic costs and environmental disruption from construction and operation of a new compressor station along the pipeline will be minimized under the standard of meeting public convenience and necessity? If other alternative sites are considered, will the FERC inform the public why the Middletown Compressor Station site is considered the optimum location under the public convenience and necessity standard?

On behalf of my constituents, thank you for your due diligence in the preparation of the environmental assessment for the proposed Middletown Compressor Station near Middletown, Maryland. Please keep me apprised of developments concerning Reference Docket No. PF07-12-000. Please call me at 202-225-2721 or contact my Chief of Staff, Bud Otis, or Energy Legislative Assistant, Lisa Wright, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Roscoe G. Bartlett,
Member of Congress

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