

I am writing to you to express some of my concerns regarding the proposed 400 kilovolt power-transmission lines that New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. (NYRI) (formally known as Pegasus), intends to run along the railroad track corridor from Marcy, New York to New Windsor, New York. The towers to support these lines would be 130 feet high and spaced every 800 feet for 200 miles.

1. It seems that the people of Central New York, especially in my area, are unaware of this private for-profit Company's intentions. It seems that NYRI is keeping this proposal out of the public's eye as much as possible. Through my inquiries I have learned that they have had several closed door meetings with some of the towns along this corridor. At NYRI's request the media was not permitted to be present at these meetings. It is my understanding that NYRI is trying to push this proposal through the State and Federal Government as quickly and as quietly as they can. This proposal affects thousands if not tens of thousands of people who reside along the railroad corridor and the majority of them have no idea that this project is even being proposed. I am doing my best to alert the media.

2. In Central New York the only real draw for tourism, residents, vacationers and people wanting to relocate here is the scenic beauty and the quaint towns and villages and working farms. These huge towers would scar the landscape and inevitably reduce so needed revenue for our communities.

3. The towers and power lines along this corridor will traverse through I'm sure, protected and unprotected wetlands as well as miles of wildlife habitat including the Delaware River corridor, which was protected by President Carter.

4. There are many claims by NYRI as to the benefits of this proposal to Central New York, i.e. cheaper electric, cleaner air, renewable energy, jobs etc. I don't believe this for one minute. When the windmills were erected in this area, no one here has reaped the benefit from them, except for the company that owns them. Our electric bills are still increasing. Cleaner air? How? Renewable energy. What are they going to do, install windmills along the high voltage lines next to the railroad tracks? What a sight that would be. Jobs? Maybe in the short term during the construction phase which more than likely will be performed by out of area contractors.

5. The close proximity of these direct current lines (1200 megawatt) on 130 foot high towers spaced every 800 feet along side a working rail line with trains traveling on them carrying toxic and other hazardous chemicals would create havoc should there be a derailment and also the possible health effects to people from these high voltage power lines. I adamantly believe that such a project, which clearly states its impact on the security of our nation, must disclose all funding sources and active involvement of all individuals in the project to assure the people of this nation that the project does not include the interests or involvement of foreign nationals who may negatively affect our national and regional security

6. AND THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERN I HAVE IS:

If New York Regional Interconnect, Inc. is permitted to proceed with their proposed project, it would put the power of EMINENT DOMAIN in the hands and at the sole discretion of a privately owned, privately funded company whose main concern is to make money for itself and its investors. It would be devastating if hundreds or thousands of homes or parcels of land were taken away from hardworking, tax paying citizens by a company who is privately owned, privately funded, who will not disclose who their investors are and whose sole purpose is to make money for themselves and their investors.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Bill Viola
1841 Wickwire Road
Hubbardsville, NY 13355
315-691-2133
e-mail: k9nic1@frontiernet.net