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5 More Brooklyn Community Members Arrested For Shutting Down Construction of National Grid's Widely Opposed North Brooklyn Fracked Gas Pipeline

While tens of thousands New Yorkers, and unanimous elected officials from the affected communities publicly oppose National Grid's MRI pipeline, DeBlasio and Cuomo stay silent-forcing residents to take action .



(Photo credit: Lee Ziesche)

[Live stream](#)

Williamsburg, NY - At sunrise, several community members, affected by construction of National Grid's Metropolitan Reliability Infrastructure project, colloquially dubbed the North Brooklyn pipeline, halted construction as they remained in the site for over an hour. 5 people who chained themselves to the site were arrested.

"If constructed, this pipeline will directly harm me, my loved ones, my neighbors, all New Yorkers and this planet.," said **Jen Chantrtanapichate, of the Frack Out of BK & No NBK Pipeline coalition, who was arrested today.** "Cuomo and DeBlasio need to live up to the CLCPA, our NYS ban on fracking, our 2020 citywide ban on new fossil fuel infrastructure and

truly confront the fact that we are living in a climate crisis.”

This morning’s action follows [multiple lockdowns by community members](#) at the site in the past two weeks that have halted construction for at least five consecutive days, as well as [unanimous elected official opposition](#) to the pipeline. National Grid (or their subcontractors) added a large fence and additional security personnel to the construction site following the successful direct actions of past weeks, but were unable to stop community members from defending their neighborhoods against the harms of a fracked gas pipeline.



(Photo credit: Lee Ziesche)

“Big for profit corporations like National Grid, who have a monopoly hold on NYC, sacrifice communities like mine and the planet in order to increase their profits. The science is clear and we can’t continue to build new fossil fuel infrastructure in NYC,” said **Chantrtanapichate**. “We need a publicly owned, publicly controlled, decommodified, decolonized and actually democratic utility system. A Public Power utility system and a just transition to renewables is long overdue. This moment is urgent— I’m willing to put my body on the line to stop this pipeline, meanwhile there are elected officials who could do so with the wave of their pen.”



Jen Chanttranapichate locked down to the pipeline construction site.
(Photo Credit: No North Brooklyn Pipeline Coalition)

For months, National Grid has been disrupting Brooklynites lives with major traffic obstructions, noisy, night-and day construction and charging public housing residents with parking tickets. Speaking to residents and small business owners living and working near the pipeline construction, many assumed there was necessary maintenance work being done, which might justify the disturbance. People were shocked to hear that far from “necessary”, this major infrastructure project was only spurred by National Grid’s greed.

If completed this pipeline would carry gas that has been fracked in Pennsylvania through Brownsville, Bed-Stuy, Bushwick, Williamsburg and Greenpoint; all for National Grid’s future profit. Fracking has been banned in New York State since 2015 due to the scientific consensus of its danger to groundwater and negative associations to health and environmental outcomes. Skirting this important regulation by fracking outside of New York, then transporting this dangerous fossil fuel through high density Black and Brown neighborhoods is outrageous and unacceptable.

But National Grid is not content to let New Yorkers pay for the fracked gas with just their health and safety, but also intends to make them pay for it with their wallets. National Grid has

proposed to pay for the pipeline, by raising monthly bills of downstate customers in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Long Island. National Grid has requested \$185 million to finish the pipeline as part of their larger rate hike request before the Public Service Commission which was originally filed in April 2019 but has dragged on due to National Grid's widely condemned moratorium and the covid health pandemic.



(Photo Credit: Lee Ziesche)

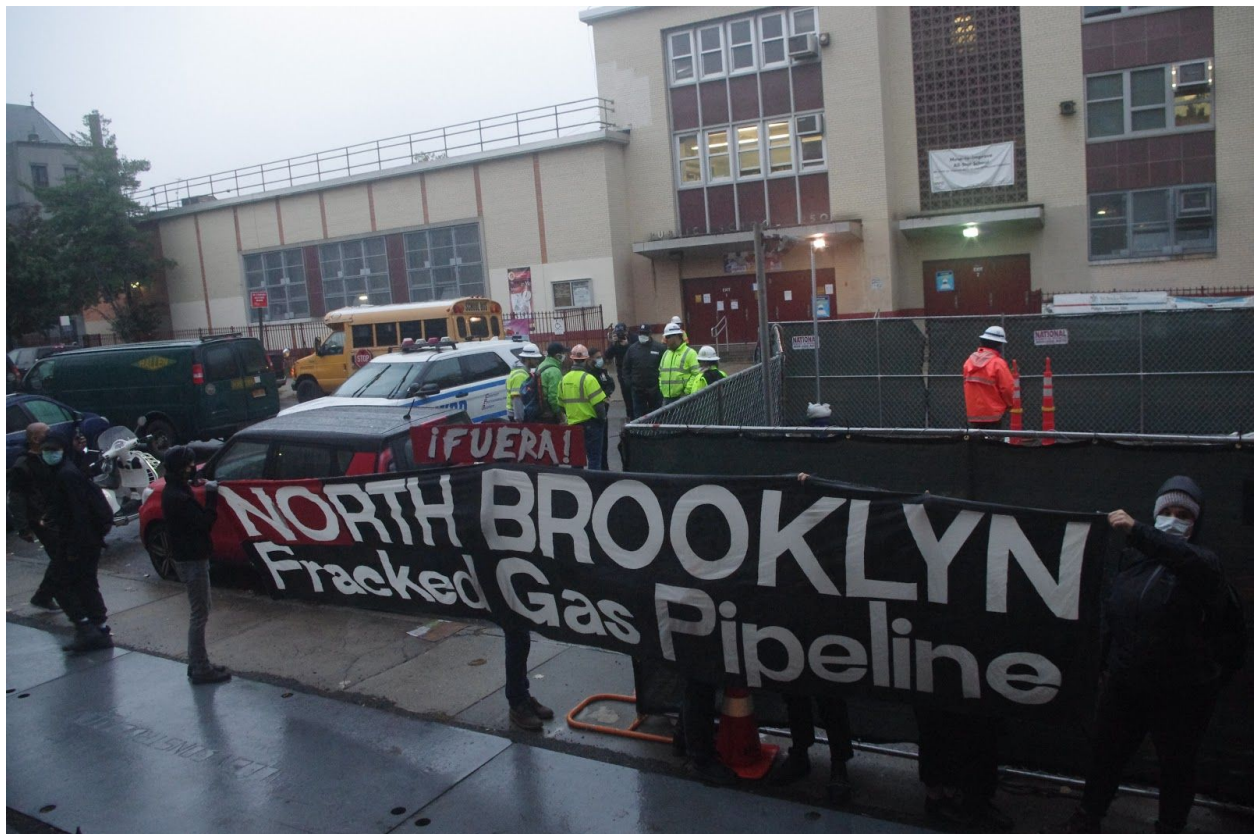
The rate case is now being hashed out in confidential settlement negotiations which are practically inaccessible for the community members who will be most impacted. Meanwhile National Grid has sped forward with construction despite not yet having received rate recovery approval for any work done in 2020, and willfully ignored the massive community and ratepayer outcry against the project. Over 12,000 public comments condemning the project and National Grid's proposed rate hike have been filed on the public record.

National Grid is almost complete with phases 1-4 of the pipeline in Brownsville, Bed-Stuy, Bushwick and Williamsburg and plan to have fracked gas running through that portion by November. New York State has questioned the need for phase 5 of the pipeline in Greenpoint which would connect the pipeline to National Grid's massive fracked gas storage depot on Newton Creek. The company is also proposing to raise rates to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to expand and extend the life of that facility.

The entire pipeline route is through communities that have borne the brunt of environmental pollution for decades. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act requires new fossil fuel infrastructure to not only do an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions of the project but do an assessment of community demographics and co-pollutants of the area in order to protect environmental justice neighborhoods.

Brownsville residents have been explicit about the racial injustice inherent to National Grid's plan and hundreds marched against the pipeline there recently. Brownsville, a community whose residents are 99% Black & people of color, already bears more than their fair share of pollutants harming public health.

Community members along the pipeline route are also concerned about the potential for a leak or explosion. An analysis done by [Fractracker](#) found that 153,000 people live in the evacuation zone of the pipeline, as well as 81 day care facilities, 63 schools, and 9 health care centers. The shutdown of construction is currently happening right outside PS 250.



(Photo Credit: Lee Ziesche)

In rate case testimony, National Grid has said more of their gas supply is fracked gas coming from the Marcellus Shale. The Marcellus Shale is the most radioactive shale play in the nation and National Grid has refused to answer community concerns about the potential for radioactive buildup in the pipeline. At a public hearing during the height of the covid pandemic in New York

City, National Grid president John Bruckner said he wouldn't 'debate the merits of radon' when asked about it by a retired firefighter concerned about cancer.



(Photo Credit: Lee Ziesche)