

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Anna Tsomo anna@saneenergyproject.org, 859-333-5584

Abigayle Reese areese@foe.org, 605-350-5189

Benny Woodard bennywoodard6@gmail.com, 413-313-4142

Frontline Residents of the North Brooklyn Pipeline and Local Elected Officials Rally, Support Gas Bill Strike to Refuse to Pay for Pipeline

Large crowd rallied in front of Brooklyn Borough Hall, then marched to National Grid's headquarters, handing out materials encouraging New Yorkers to withhold \$66 from National Grid gas bills.



(Photo credit: Ken Schles)

Livestream [here](#) and additional video footage [here](#) and [here](#)

More photos available upon request

Brooklyn, New York - Frontline community members and organizers were joined by elected officials on Saturday outside of Brooklyn Borough Hall for a large rally opposing the North Brooklyn Pipeline and a proposed rate hike that would force 1.9 million National Grid gas customers to pay for its construction.

The rally occurred just five days before August 12, when the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) is expected to vote on the proposed rate hike. If approved, National Grid will raise New Yorker's gas bills to recover all of the money they spent on the pipeline's construction since 2020, as well as investments made in several [other widely opposed fracked gas infrastructure projects](#).

Community organizers stated "we will not pay to poison NYC," and encouraged New Yorkers to join the Gas Bill Strike by withholding \$66 from their National Grid gas bills. \$66 is the approximate amount of money the utility company would charge individual customers over time for the pipeline.

According to Sane Energy Project, the North Brooklyn Pipeline is an unneeded infrastructure project that is only being built as a way to justify a rate increase by National Grid. Fracked gas is a [leading contributor to atmospheric warming](#), and the NY Department of Public Service did no review of greenhouse gas emissions impacts for the infrastructure projects. Community members and elected officials alike asserted that New Yorkers deserve better climate leadership, and advocate for investment in [renewable energy](#) and [public power](#) instead of fossil fuels.

Speakers at the rally called on the PSC to deny National Grid's proposal, and block the company from increasing gas bills to pay for the pipeline. Community organizers made it clear that no matter the vote, the people of NYC will continue to resist this pipeline until it is permanently shut down.

Kevin LaCherra said "my grandpa worked in the factories that lined [Newtown] Creek, and my grandmother died of the cancers that have taken family members of anyone who has lived [in Greenpoint] long enough." A 4th-generation Greenpoint resident and community organizer, he stated, "we don't want any more pipelines. We want renewable energy for our homes. We need public power. And we need the Governor's Public Service Commission to reject the fee hikes and shut this down once and for all."

A founding member of Brownsville Residents Green Committee, Gabriel Jamison called on "New York City government to choose People Over Profit. Currently the city and the NYPD are allied with National Grid and other corporations that seek to exploit poor people," and tied this North Brooklyn Pipeline fight to the Stop Line 3 movement in Minnesota, stating "It is obvious in these two pipeline fights that using environmental destruction is a tool of racism. The fight for environmental justice cannot be successful without racial justice."

Jennifer Gutierrez, Democratic Nominee for City Council District 34, said "We know that this pipeline is explicitly and intentionally racist, it directly contradicts our climate laws, will harm our Black and brown families, and will reward a private corporation and its shareholders at the cost of our environment...This week the Public Service Commission will take a vote, but we already

know everything we need to know. We won't pay this rate hike. We will not allow for fracked gas, and we won't pay for further exploitation of our communities."

"We don't need any more toxic infrastructure. It doesn't make any sense to make that commitment [to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act]...and then to continue to build fossil fuel infrastructure. It'll become what's called a stranded asset. It's worse than useless. It hurts our people, and we're not going to tolerate it," said Senator Julia Salazar. "We are fighting to end this pipeline, and we are fighting for public power. We are going to call on the Public Service Commission at the state level to reject these rate hikes that National Grid wants...on top of all of their crimes against our communities, National Grid expects us to pay for it. Solidarity with all of you, the hundreds of individuals who have chosen to take direct action by participating in this gas strike."

Ms. Patricia Ross, a frontline resident of Brownsville living only a few blocks from the first phase of the pipeline, said "We want this pipeline to be shut down ... [Governor Cuomo] is not going to do that to the people, because we want our children to live... Sometimes they think because they got money...they could do whatever they want. No. It's our time. It's our territory, we live there. Those are our children."

"It's great to see so many people and organizations come together to fight this racist, invasive pipeline. It not only threatens our future but also degrades our community," said Ismael Diaz-Tolentino, the Environmental Justice Coordinator of El Puente. "On behalf of El Puente, I can assure you that both Williamsburg and Bushwick are against this pipeline, and we're not going to stop until we put a stop to National Grid. Thank you for throwing down and showing the power of the people. Pa'lante." Additionally, El Puente provided [Spanish translations](#) for the gas bill strike campaign.

Bed Stuy resident and Democratic nominee for City Council District 36, Chi Osse said "National Grid has some nerve to build a pipeline on stolen land...We need to tell Governor Cuomo, instead of preying on women, protect the earth. Protect the lands. Protect the stolen lands that have been taken from Indigenous people...Before you resign, before you're impeached, do one thing right in your administration. Get the frack out of New York City. Get the frack out of Brooklyn. It is time to invest in public power."

Sandy Nurse, Democratic Nominee for City Council District 37, said "I want to join that gas strike. I won't pay it...Between the forest fires, droughts ... shutting down this pipeline, you are extending real, actual solidarity to fracked communities. Communities that have their water poisoned ...We have a Governor who we can't reasonably expect anymore to do anything for us, so it is us. We are the ones that are going to have to shut it down."

Both [Nurse](#) and [Osse](#) posted on social media after the rally that they have joined the Gas Bill Strike.



(Photo credit Ken Schles)

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

More info on the Gas Bill Strike at: www.nonbipeline.org/strike