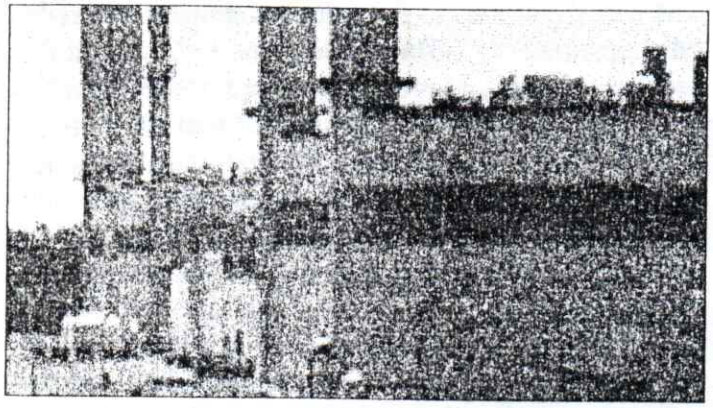
Information about the Power Plant Project Proposed for Rutland and Bennington Counties



(photo above) 1040-megawatt generator in Oswego, NY. Water-cooled, Combined Cycle Natural Gas Co-Generation Power Plant, similar to the proposed Rutland project.

Who are the sponsors of the proposed natural gas project?

Iroquois Gas Transmission System proposes to build the pipeline extension from the other side of Albany, NY to Bennington, VT. They are headquartered in Shelton, CT. 35% of Iroquois is owned by Trans Canada Pipeline, the largest shareholder in Iroquois. Iroquois is a transportation company owned by 10 Canadian and U.S. energy companies.

Iroquois was charged with numerous environmental violations for its pipeline project in New York State in 1991.

They agreed to a settlement of $22 million in fines in 1996, and Iroquois employees went to jail. Since that project, Iroquois has been involved primarily in reconstruction of pipelines. Iroquois is a $26 billion dollar company.

NYSEG, New York State Electric & Gas, proposes to build the pipeline from Bennington to Rutland. NYSEG is a $5 billion publicly held New York utility headquartered in Binghamton. It is a subsidiary of Energy East of Albany. NYSEG is doing business in Vermont under the name Southern Vermont Natural Gas. Most of NYSEG's pipeline construction work has been building distribution systems. Their major transmission project was the Seneca project in the Finger Lakes region of New York in 1995 and 1996.

Property owners who were affected by the Seneca project have invited Vermonters to visit. They report that the 100-foot clear-cut is highly visible, attracting ATV and snowmobile traffic throughout the year.

Vermont Energy Park Holdings are the sponsors of the power plant project.

Thomas Macaulay, a former Rutland County State Senator and currently of Estech-North, Inc., an electronic surveillance development company, and **Robert Votaw,** formerly of Enserch Development Corp. and currently of Farmington Power in CT, are the two partners in VEPH.

Two power plants proposed.

In Bennington, a 270-megawatt generating plant is proposed for the site of the former Jard Co. It is near Mt. Anthony High School, the proposed new middle school, the ball park, and a mobile home park.

In Rutland, a 1080-megawatt plant is proposed for a site west of the Holiday Inn at the intersections of Routes 4 and 7. The building is estimated to have a footprint of 20 to 30 acres, with an emissions stack more than 200 feet tall. The site is in a flood plain full of wetlands.

The proponents of the power plants have not disclosed their financial backing. The pipelines will not be built unless the power plants are built.

Why do they want to build these power plants in Vermont?

Studies show the project is financially viable. There is room on the 345 kv transmission line that runs between Rutland and Vermont Yankee in Vermont, so they can move the power out of the state.

The state agreed to perform an expedited review of the project to meet the project schedule of having the power plants operating by Nov. 1, 2001. State employees now indicate that the pipeline portion of the project has been delayed two years.

The Power Plants

Fifty-seven proposals in New England to build natural gas generators.

There are 57 proposals in New England to build natural gas generating facilities within the next 3 years. They would have a combined output of 30,000 mw in a region with a peak load of 21,000 mw. There is a projected need for only about 1/3 that much new power in New England. Vermont's peak load is 1100 mw, average load is 650 mw.

The Gold Rush

These Merchant Power Plants are the result of deregulation of the electric industry. Within the industry, the natural gas power plant boom is referred to as "the gold rush." The plants that are built first will make the most money. The theory is that the cleaner burning natural gas will be more efficient and produce electricity cheaper than the current, dirtier oil and coal technologies. But there is disagreement about whether the new plants will produce electricity more cheaply than the older plants that do not have to meet stringent current pollution standards.

The 14 dirtiest power plants in New England are in ME, NH, MA and CT. Citizens in those states are working together to promote ironclad requirements to clean up or replace the aging fleet of old and dirty plants, and to encourage investment in clean energy and conservation. Vermont has no grid-connected coal or oil plants to shut down.

Deregulation has resulted in a dramatic increase in air pollution in New England.

There is no mechanism to force a coal or oil plant to shut down when a natural gas plant comes on line. Deregulation has caused a dramatic increase in air pollution in New England since the older facilities have not necessarily been shut down as new plants come on line.

Electricity will not be sold in Vermont.

The electricity from the proposed Vermont plants cannot be sold in Vermont because Vermont is not deregulated. We are locked into contracts with Hydro-Quebec and Vermont Yankee.

Regional issues concerning natural gas.

The use of natural gas for electrical generating facilities combined with other heating and transportation uses might result in over-dependence, insufficient pipeline supply capacity, and lack of fuel diversity; and is a concern to reliability. It is not clear if natural gas generation will be able to economically meet future nitrogen oxide Clean Air Act standards and any carbon dioxide emission limits.

Other local siting issues include:

- **Noise** - significant, constant rumbling and whine audible for up to 25 miles
- **Lighting** - exterior lighting can be extensive; airplane beacon light 24 hours a day
- **Toxic Storage** - on-site storage of ammonia
- **Water Resources** - evaporating millions of gallons of water a day; acid rain condensate
- **Air Emissions** - hundreds of tons of pollutants annually, trapped in deep isolated valleys
- **Aesthetics** - huge factory building, 200+ ft. tall vent stack; additional haze impacting scenic views, vapor plume visible for miles
- **Meteorology** - extensive ground fogging and icing impacts on nearby roadways and rail lines
- **Transmission Lines & Electric Substations** - large, new lines emanating from the plants
- **Safety** - leaks and explosions, fire safety and emergency response
- **Property Values** - reduced in neighborhoods
- **Public Health** - new pollution source
- **Temperature Inversions** - trapping unhealthy air

(photo) Huge quantities of water, necessary for cooling, would be evaporated creating a large vapor plume that would be visible for miles.

UPDATE: News From Vermonters for a Clean Environment

September 9, 1999

Danby resident Annette Smith announced the formation of Vermonters for a Clean Environment at a Press Conference at the base of the Revolutionary War Memorial in Manchester Village on May 26, 1999. Her initial concerns about the size and timetable of the proposal were compounded after researching the numerous and complex issues surrounding the project. She and other concerned citizens believe that importing natural gas to produce electricity for export is a poor allocation of precious resources and does not represent a good investment in Vermont's future.

Documents obtained by VCE through the *Freedom of Information Act*

Documents obtained by VCE through the *Freedom of Information Act* reveal an agreement to expedite the project to get it through on its timetable to have the power plants up and running by Nov. 1, 2001. The Office of the Auditor is investigating the Agency of Natural Resources to determine how much taxpayer money has been spent on a project which the Department of Public Service officially says does not exist. Communications between ANR wildlife biologists express their concerns about the low pay scale for hiring extra staff for the project review, and the expectation that only people fresh out of school would be hired to do a large and diverse amount of work.

Property owners from Bennington to Rutland are mailing Notices Against Trespass to Gas Pipeline and State Agency officials.

Denying access to private property is a right of property owners; in fact it may be their only right. ANR employees have told property owners that they will not go on private property without written permission, and without the ability to conduct a field survey they cannot file a report with the Public Service Board. Although the PSB could issue an order allowing access to private property, that might apply only to utility and highway corridors, but not to portions of the route involving new rights-of-way. VCE is compiling lists of affected property owners from Bennington to Rutland. We are including property owners half a mile either side of the proposed route because the pipeline company has said they go around property owners who object.

Significant environmental issues along the preferred gas pipeline route

There are significant environmental issues along the preferred route, and the pipeline company has repeatedly said the route is flexible. VCE is hiring lawyers and experts to participate in hearings before the Public Service Board, should there be a filing.

Cooperation with affected towns

We invite the cooperation of citizens and towns throughout the region to pool our resources and make sure that our interests are represented. Even towns that support the project will want to make sure their specific issues are addressed. This is an expensive process and we need to be prepared.

Where is the Public Good?

The citizens of Rutland and Bennington Counties are expected to make a significant sacrifice for what some suggest is the Public Good. In order for there to be some Public Good in this project, VCE recommends:

- Guaranteed natural gas distribution areas, conversion costs, and timetables.
- Guaranteed, fixed natural gas prices for a specific period of time.
- Guarantees that for each power plant built in Vermont, Vermont Yankee, or an equivalent size coal or oil plant is removed from service.
- Proof that Jobs will be created.
- Compensation to property owners for disruption to lives and loss of property value.
- Intervenor funding to compensate affected towns and citizens for time and resources consumed in dealing with this project.
- Significant investment in renewable energy sources.

The Pipelines

The proposed pipelines would go through more than a dozen Vermont towns. (Please see map on page 5 for the proposed location.)

Fewer than half of those towns would get natural gas as a result of this project.

Two-thirds of the route is through private property that can be taken by eminent domain if the state issues a Certificate of Public Good.

A two-foot wide pipeline

Eighty-five percent of the natural gas to be run through the two-foot, high pressure (1400 psi) pipeline is to fuel the power plants. The infrastructure for residential distribution of natural gas is expensive and may be prohibitive for all the towns along the route except Bennington and Rutland, and perhaps Manchester.

Pipeline issues include:

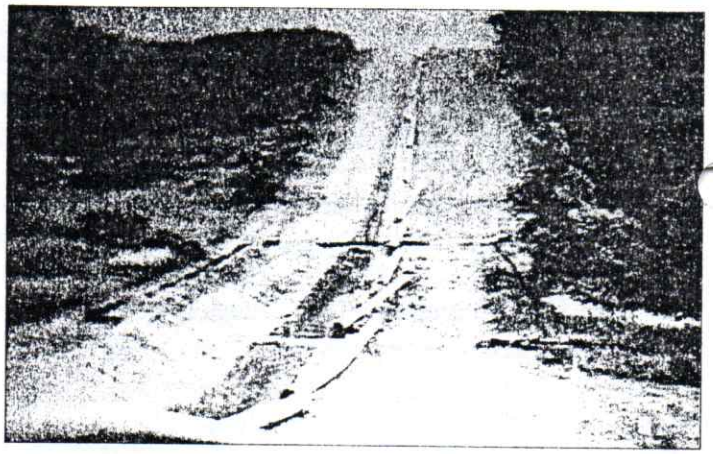
- **Wetlands**
- **Stream Crossings**
- **Water Supplies**
- **Wildlife, Fisheries, Botanical Impacts**
- **Forest Clear-cut**
- **Archaeological sites**
- **Threatened and Endangered Species**
- **Safety -- Leaks, Explosions, Venting**
- **Increased Traffic -- ATV's and Snowmobiles**
- **Transmission Line Upgrades Possible**
- **Gas Leaks Kill Vegetation**

Utility Corridor
Fiber optic cable conduit put out for bid, making money on private property on which property owners pay all taxes. Future development leading to digging up trench and adding more pipelines.

Decline in Property Values
Proposed pipeline is already affecting property sales and development of property along the route.

HUD's guidelines on lending: high pressure gas line within 10 feet of property is considered a hazard (form HUD-92564-VC, 6/99)

Eminent Domain
Private property can be taken for a for-profit project that will benefit out-of-state utilities and investors.

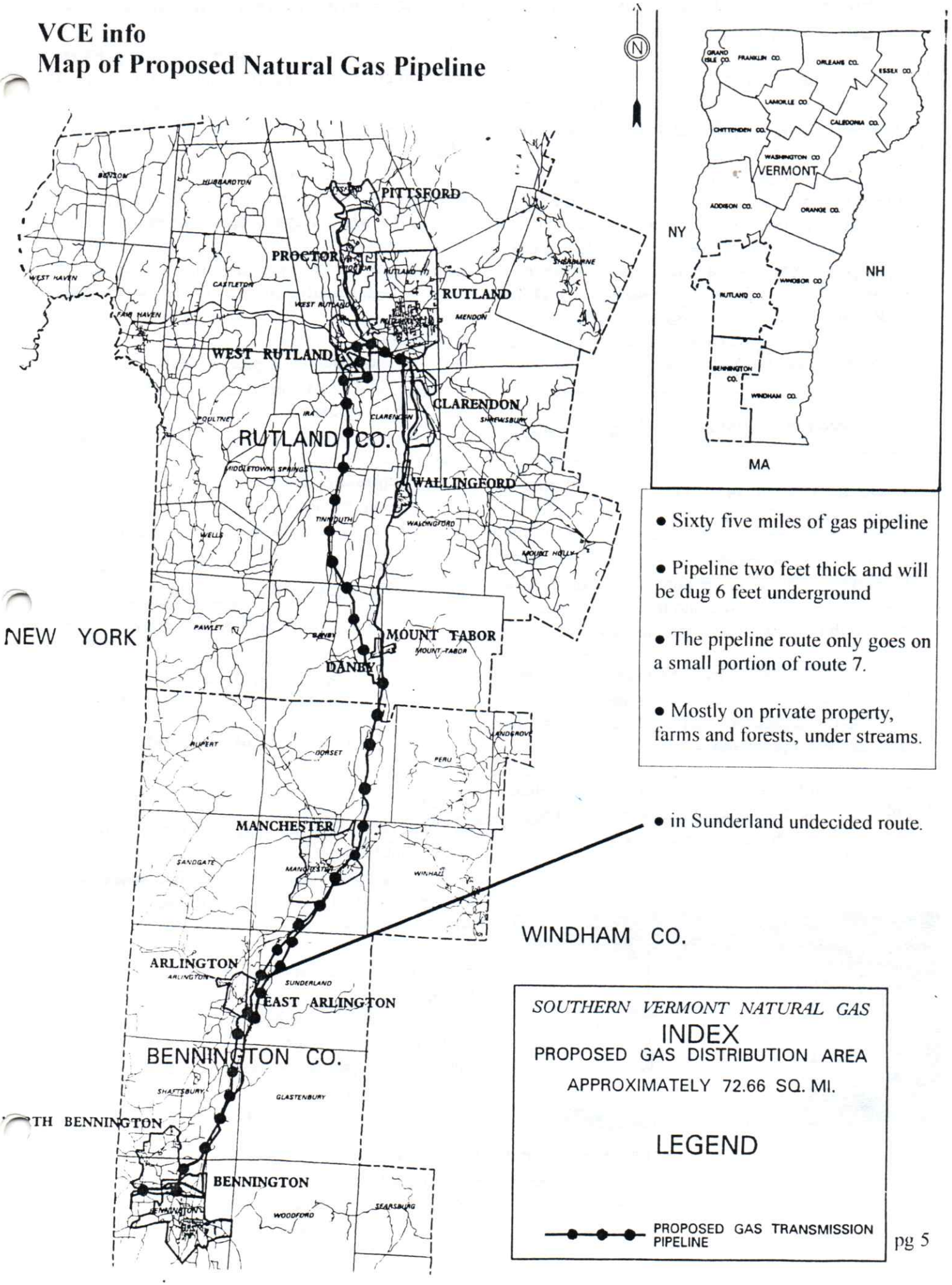


(photo) A 2 foot pipeline would require a 75 to 125 foot wide clear-cut, and blasting and digging a trench six feet wide and six feet deep.

Each town has different and significant issues regarding the preferred route of the pipeline:

- **Bennington**--along by-pass to connector, south through town to Jard site, residences and schools in area
- **Shaftsbury**--utility line on private property
- **Arlington**--utility line on private property, new right-of-way
- **Sunderland**--tentative route decision, Lye Brook Wilderness Area, possible new right-of-way
- **Manchester**--Lye Brook Wilderness Area, route along highway near many residences
- **Dorset**--private property along Rt. 7, blasting away ledges at Emerald Lake
- **Mt. Tabor**--taking land along Rt. 7
- **Danby**--over mountain, through ledge & water resources, 18 acre forest clear-cut
- **Tinmouth**--huge, pristine water supplies, marble vein
- **Clarendon**--large tracts of remote properties, new right-of-way
- **Rutland** - loop around city, route unknown

VCE info
Map of Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline



- Sixty five miles of gas pipeline
- Pipeline two feet thick and will be dug 6 feet underground
- The pipeline route only goes on a small portion of route 7.
- Mostly on private property, farms and forests, under streams.

SOUTHERN VERMONT NATURAL GAS

INDEX

PROPOSED GAS DISTRIBUTION AREA

APPROXIMATELY 72.66 SQ. MI.

LEGEND

PROPOSED GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINE

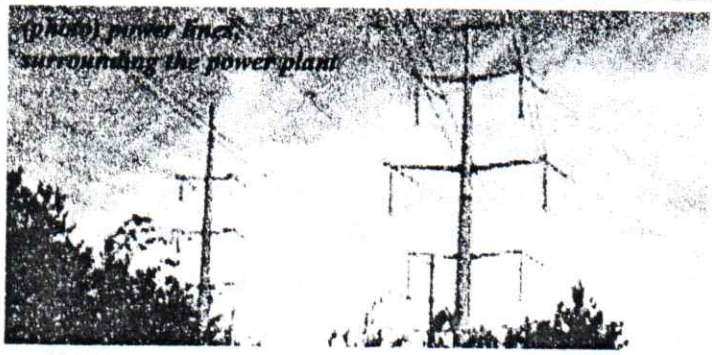
Citizens in other states urge caution in negotiating easements

Citizens dealing with pipeline issues in other states urge caution in negotiating easements with pipeline companies. A recently publicized case in Maine illustrates potential problems:

Last month, a used-car salesman in Lisbon locked horns with a pipeline company after it sought to change the location of the pipe route through his property. The dispute escalated when the company sent tow trucks to remove cars, so workers could clear the route. Police were called after the man stood in front of the tow trucks. The issue then moved to court, where the property owner lost.

Some recommendations regarding negotiating easements:

- Do not negotiate or sign an easement until the project is certified to be built.
- Make sure the wording is for only the minimum footage needed, one pipe only, nothing to be added later, can't be sold and that it will revert back to the owner if no longer needed.
- Test water supplies before and after construction. People in Maine report having on-going problems with their wells after pipeline construction has been completed.
- Have soil types and restoration clearly spelled out in easements, including requirements to rake rocks. All topsoil should be segregated and replaced as topsoil.



(photo) power lines surrounding the power plant

Please come to the Public meetings

This project affects everyone in the region: Please make an effort to attend all public meetings, whether or not they are in your town.

Meetings:

Danby:

Tuesday, September 14, 7:30 p.m.
VEPH, VT DPS, VCE
(At the Danby Four Corners Town Hall)
Vote: September 15, Town Clerk's Office.

Bennington:

September 16, 7 p.m.
VEPH, VT DPS, VCE
(Fire House)

Tinmouth:

September 22, 7 p.m.
(Church Basement)
Tinmouth Residents vote from the floor.

Please help VCE and yourself
by mailing the enclosed

Notice of Trespass

it may be your only right.

Thanks to our supporters:
VCE has received tremendous support from people throughout the region. For such a new organization this is quite remarkable. We would like to say **Thank You** to all who have contributed to date, and to those who will contribute in the future.

Vermonters for a Clean Environment's
Headquarters:
Old Mill Road, Candle Mill Village.
East Arlington, Vermont
The office is open for business weekdays.
9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Carter James, Coordinator **(802) 375-8091**

Vermonters for a Clean Environment
789 Baker Brook Rd. • Danby, VT 05739
(802) 446-2094 • vce@sover.net • www.vtce.org

VCE Boards, Attorneys & Experts

Board of Directors

Annette Smith, Founder. Farmer. Concerned Citizen.

Noel Perrin. Teaches Environmental Writing at Dartmouth College.His subject matter has led him to think deeply about energy questions, and suit his actions to his conclusions. Widely associated with Vermont for his writings about rural living and known for his support of alternative energy through his experiences with a solar car.

Richard M. Ketchum lives on a farm in Dorset, where he has had a home since 1946. He was the founding editor of Blair & Ketchum's Country Journal and has written 11 books, most recently Saratoga. He and his wife are active conserva-tionists and are very much concerned about the environment in Vermont and the world.

Advisory Board

Bennington: Mike Bethel, Terry Ehrich, Thomas F. Keefe
haftsbury: Andrew Knafel, Norman Lear, Paul R. Robinson
Arlington: Nancy Boardman
Manchester: Barbara Keyes
Dorset: Austin Chinn, Robert Menson, Cynthia Smith
Danby: Carter R. James, Annette Smith
Tinmouth: Adam Guettel, Melody Squier, Ramsey Yoder
Clarendon: David & Sue Potter

Attorneys

Jon S. Readnour is an attorney with 25 years of experience in environmental and public utility law. He has been in private practice for 14 years in Vermont. Prior to that time Mr. Readnour was Environmental and Occupational Health counsel for the UpJohn Co., and prior to that was Asst. General Counsel for Central Maine Power Co., primarily involved with licensing of power plants and transmission lines. Since coming to Vermont, Mr. Readnour has represented clients including electric utilities, real estate developers, petroleum retailers, water utilities and nuclear power generation utilities.

Stephanie Kaplan is an attorney in private practice in Vermont. She is former Executive Director and General Counsel of the Vermont Environmental Board from 1986 to 1994, and now represents Vermonters who are concerned about inappropriate development in their communities.

Experts

Jerry Jenkins, Botanist
Jeff Parsons, Wetland Consultant
Chris Olson, Forester
Eric Rosencrantz, Geologist
Mike Donovan, Environmental Coordinator
Peter Guldberg, Tech Environmental, Inc., Visual Impacts, Air Quality, Noise,

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Vermonters for a Clean Environment (VCE) needs your help

email: vce @ sover. net **mail:** 789 Baker Brook Road, Danby, Vermont 05739

- ☐ Yes I want to join VCE to help fight this harmful project
- ☐ Here is a contribution of $_____right now
- ☐ I will contribute $_____ per month for the next____ months. Bill me
- ☐ I am interested in actively participating in the effort. Contact me.
- ☐ I am an affected property owner
- ☐ I have received notice from the gas/power plant
- ☐ I would like to volunteer time. Contact me
- ☐ I would like to donate supplies, etc

Please make checks payable to "VCE" Donations are Tax-Deductible

Name_____ **Company/Org** (if applicable)_____

Address_____

City_____ **St.**_____ **Zip**_____

phone_____ **days**_____ **eves**_____

fax_____ **email**_____

copy this page and pass it on to your friends and neighbors–

Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Inc.
789 Baker Brook Rd.
Danby, VT 05739

Phone: (802) 375-8091, (802) 446-2094
Web site: www.vtce.org
e-mail: vce@sover.net

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inside:
see map of
proposed pipeline route

Public Meetings

Danby: *please attend*
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.
(Danby Four Corners Town Hall)

Bennington:
Thurs., Sept. 16, 7:00 p.m.
(Fire House)

Vermonters for a Clean Environment

raises concerns about two proposed power plants and 65 miles of gas pipeline & their impact on Southern Vermont.

(Vermonters for a Clean Environment (VCE) is a non-profit grassroots organization, founded by Annette Smith, a farmer and concerned citizen)

VCE has researched the basic issues surrounding this project & finds NO PUBLIC GOOD for the people of Vermont.

- **Two large industrial sites will emit pollution that would make our air dirtier.**
- **Huge quantities of water (5 million gallons a day), necessary for cooling, would be evaporated creating a large vapor plume that would be visible for miles.**
- **Noise could be audible as far as 25 miles away.**
- **Electricity would be sold out of state, not in Vermont.**
- **Private property could be seized by eminent domain for the pipeline.**
- **The last priority of this project is getting natural gas to residences in Vermont.**
- **No facts have been presented to show that this project will lead to economic development and jobs.**
- **There are 57 other proposals to build natural gas power plants in New England while there is a need for a fraction of those.**
- **State agencies have agreed to expedite this billion-dollar project to get it through on its timeframe, something unheard of given our strict environmental review process.**
- **Vermont's reputation as an environmental state with bucolic settings and clean air would be damaged.**

The basic question of what Vermont is and what we want it to be is the heart of the matter.

For more than half the length of the pipeline route, nobody would get natural gas.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENDING
"NOTICE AGAINST TRESPASS"

1. Make 3 copies.

2. Send a signed copy of the Notice to each of the addresses noted at the top of the page.

3. Sending each copy by Certified Mail -- Return Receipt Requested -- is legal notice and means you do not have to post your land.

Mail certified mail return receipt requested to:

Bruce Roloson
NYSEG/SVNG Corp.,
P.O. Box 160, Rutland VT 05702

Peter LaFlamme
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
103 S Main St.
Waterbury, VT 05671-0408

4. The post office can help you with the forms needed to send the notices by Certified Mail.

5. If you are concerned about the expense, send one signed form to VCE and we will mail it for you.

6. So we can keep track of who received Notices, we ask that you send a copy by regular first class mail to:

VCE
789 Baker Brook Road
Danby, VT 05739

7. Feel free to send a copy to any other parties that you feel should be notified.

8. Please keep a signed and dated copy of this for your records, along with the receipts that are returned from the gas company and state agency.

PLEASE READ
INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENDING THE
"NOTICE AGAINST TRESPASS"
ON THE BACK

NOTICE AGAINST TRESPASS
SEND VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Date _____

To: **Bruce Roloson,** NYSEG/SVNG Corp., P.O. Box 160, Rutland, VT 05702

To: **Peter LaFlamme,** Vermont Agency of Natural Resources,
103 S. Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671-0408

NOTICE AGAINST TRESPASS

This NOTICE AGAINST TRESPASS is hereby given to you pursuant to Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 13, Chapter 81, Section 3705

Until further notice, you, your agents, successors and assigns, are hereby notified that you are prohibited from entering upon or otherwise accessing the lands and/or property having the address or location designated below and owned by the Owner. A person who violates this Notice shall be imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than $500.00, or both.

Owner _____

Signed _____

Property Address or Location _____

_____

Owner's Address _____

_____

please send copies to (optional)

❑ VCE - 789 Baker Brook Road, Danby, VT 05739

❑ Other _____ ❑ Other _____

important: Please keep a signed and dated copy of this for your records