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**May 2020: National Grid: We are the epicenter of the pandemic. We demand a halt on construction on the non-essential infrastructure, North Brooklyn “MRI” Pipeline**

**May 20, 2020**

**Delivered via EMAIL**

To: John Bruckner, President of National Grid New York john.bruckner@nationalgrid.com

cc: Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York State via online form

cc: Commissioner John Rhodes, Chair of New York State Public Service Commission  
john.rhodes@dps.ny.gov

cc: Secretary Michelle Phillips of the New York State Public Service Commission  
secretary@dps.ny.gov

**Dear Mr. Bruckner,**

We, the undersigned, are calling on National Grid to immediately halt construction of the Metropolitan Reliability Infrastructure (MRI) project for the health and safety of construction workers and the North Brooklyn community. The North Brooklyn community has never consented to this pipeline being built through our neighborhoods, or to use our ratepayer dollars to pay for it. National Grid continues to potentially expose our community to novel coronavirus and shows a complete disregard for our safety.

Last week, National Grid contacted the offices of local elected officials to notify them that construction would begin on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. However, on Monday, May 18, residents observed a group of nearly a dozen National Grid workers working on parts of the pipeline that make it nearly impossible for them to appropriately distance. Particularly alarming, aside from National Grid ignoring New York State and New York City’s social distancing orders, was a sign that read “National Grid has authorized this critical work to maintain safe and reliable services.” Given that it is not up to National Grid to authorize work, it is up to our state regulators, we feel this is the rogue decision of a multinational corporation hiding behind an expansion of a liquefied natural gas depot in Greenpoint, Brooklyn contrary to the consent of our community and worker safety. While thousands of New Yorkers have died from COVID-19, and freezer trucks with the bodies of the deceased still sit outside our local hospitals, it is unconscionable that National Grid would endanger workers and our community when the work of building this fossil fuel pipeline is NOT essential, and is an attack on a community already under siege by both the virus and its economic consequences.

To add insult to injury, nearly 2,000 residents have filed comments with the Public Service Commission in the past few months expressing outrage towards the construction of this pipeline

without their consent. To resume construction this week is nothing short of arrogant and dismissive, especially with the caveat that this will raise our rates.

We have heard National Grid claim this pipeline is about “safety and reliability “ but both New York State through the Department of Public Service and New York City have questioned the need for phase 5 of the pipeline and called for a halt of approval of funds.

To pre-emptively start construction on a pipeline that is not yet approved, nor has approved funding, by our state agencies, after Governor Cuomo extended the Stay At Home executive order until June, shows National Grid is willing to spend ratepayer funds without any regard to their becoming stranded assets, or the impact that rate hikes will inevitably have on New Yorkers who are desperately struggling to pay their accumulating bills. New York State recently denied the Williams NESE Pipeline. We need the same kind of leadership exhibited here to halt National Grid’s unnecessary and poisonous project.

Within the pipeline route of phases four and five, we have 81 daycare facilities, 55 public schools, nine health care centers, eight private schools, three Emergency Medical Services (EMS) stations, three nursing homes, one medical center, additionally, there is a dense concentration of low-income public housing buildings in North Brooklyn located along the subsection of where phase four is being constructed. North Brooklyn is already impacted by environmental racism and has been an epicenter of environmental devastation for more than 150 years. New York’s Industrial Revolution was born on the banks of Newtown Creek, now a superfund site where National Grid aims to expand more toxins via this pipeline and home to the second-largest oil spill in North America. We know that North Brooklyn is still suffering from the consequences of disproportionate environmental pollutants today from not only fossil fuel pollution, but heavy truck traffic and waste pollution. National Grid has done no assessment of co-pollutants in the communities where they are building their infrastructure.

We demand you keep our community safe, and not only allow workers to be paid to stay at home during this pandemic, but work to shut down this fracked gas pipeline for good and help to transition our workforce to a renewable, equitable, and efficient future. Anything less than a complete halt to construction is reckless toward ratepayers , workers, and residents.

Sincerely,

**Assemblymember Joseph Lentol**  
NYS Assembly

**Senator Julia Salazar**  
NYS Senate

**NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer**  
Office of the New York  
City Comptroller

**NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso**  
NYC Council Member, 34th District

Legislative Director  
Elizabeth Adams  
**City Council Member Stephen Levin**

**Democratic District leader, 50th Assembly district Nick Rizzo**

## Organizations

350 Brooklyn  
Mimi Bluestone  
Bernice Gordon  
Jackie Weisberg  
Dorian Fulvio

350 NYC  
Rosemarie SantiEsteban

7Cinema  
Luke Ohlson

Alliance for a Green Economy  
Jessica Azulay  
Executive Director

Bkgreencart  
Greg Todd

Bronx Climate  
Justice North  
Jennifer  
Scarlott  
Mary Hemings

Buddhist Climate Action Network  
Robert Kolodny

Cleanup North Brooklyn  
Benjamin Weinstein

Climate Smart  
Philipstown  
Tara Vamos

Coalition for Family Justice  
Michele Rafferty

Coalition to Protect New York  
Doug Couchon  
Maura Stephens

Community  
Education  
Council  
District 14  
Tajh Sutton

DAMASCUS Citizens for Sustainability  
Ronald Gulla

DSA Ecosocialist Working Group,  
350Brooklyn  
Robert Wood

Earthkeeper  
Health  
Resources  
Amy Rosmarin

Elmira & Friends Against Fracking  
Doug Couchon

Extinction Rebellion NYC & NBK  
Gregory Bratone  
Sunil Devadanam  
Jonathan Minard  
Sarah Vogwill  
Cindi Clark

Food & Water  
Action  
Alex  
Beauchamp  
Northeast  
Regional  
Director

Food & Water Action  
Laura Shindell  
Organizer

FrackBustersNY  
Mary Finneran

Friends of  
Bushwick Inlet  
Park  
Catherine  
McKeever

Gas Free Seneca  
Yvonne Taylor

Global Healing Foundation  
Clare Rosenfield

Hearst  
Communications  
Natasha Lunn

Mothers Out Front  
Johanna Fallert  
Jenny Strandberg

MUSE (Musicians United to Save the  
Environment)  
Judith Fletcher

Nassau Hiking  
& Outdoor  
Club  
Guy Jacob

Seneca Lake Guardian  
Joseph Campbell

Sixth Street Community Center  
Jen Chantrtanapichate, Program Director

South Shore  
Audubon  
Society  
Brien Weiner

Surfrider Foundation, NYC Chapter  
Noelle Picone

Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion  
Susan Van Dolsen  
Suzannah Glidden

Sunrise Kids  
Marzena  
Wolert

Sustainable Williamsburg  
Erin Sauchell  
Cory Kantin

Tinker Tree Play/Care  
Natalie Cronin

University  
Community  
Kevin  
Fitzgerald

Veterans for Peace  
Jill Godmilow

Zen Center of New York City - Earth  
Initiative  
Stu Kennedy

United for  
Action  
Sheila Geist

National Resources Protective  
Association  
Roy Fischman

New York Chapter of the Sustainable  
Event Alliance  
Michele Fox

New York  
Communities  
for Change  
Jonathan  
Westin

Newtown Creek Alliance  
Lisa Bloodgood

NO NBK Pipeline  
Abigail Thompson  
Charlotte Thompson  
Katherine Thompson

North Bronx  
Racial Justice  
Jennifer  
Scarlott

North Brooklyn Neighbors  
Anthony Buissereth  
Executive Director

North Brooklyn Parks Alliance  
Jane Pool

NY Climate  
Advocacy  
Project  
Ruth Foster

NYC DSA  
Simone Norman

NYC Grassroots Alliance  
Susan Spieler  
Jill McManus

NYPIRG  
Elizabeth  
Moran

People for a Healthy Environment  
Doug Couchon

PS 34 PTA  
Jane Lea

Rochester  
Solidarity with  
Wet'suwet'en  
Jolie Mahan

Rockaway Women for Progress  
Jean Belford

Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG)  
Nancy Vann

Sane Energy  
Project  
Kim Fraczek,  
Director  
Lee Ziesche,  
Coordinator  
Judith Canepa,  
Coordinator  
Katherine  
O'Donnell  
Henrica Blom  
Brigitte  
Kinniburgh  
Thomas Ross  
Queenie Nguyen  
Jean Standish  
Mariah  
Agbonkpolo  
Marco Z

**Residents, Friends and Family**

Colin Ackers  
11693

Schuyler Allen  
11222

Patrick  
Almonrode  
10025

Barbara  
Anderson  
11211

Susan Anspach  
10516

Raymond Arent  
21146

Carl Arnold  
11218

Adam Arwas  
112220

Karen Bachmann  
11222

lorrie balton  
11222

Jacqueline  
Barak  
11249

Sonja Baris  
01510

Meredith Barish  
11222

Diana Berardino  
10036

Jill  
Berkowitz-Berl  
iner  
10549

Rebecca  
Berlant  
11231

Kristin Berry  
11222

Gabrielle Binler  
11249

Linda Blatnik  
07010

Neil Bleifeld  
10036

		Teresa Chan-Kraushar 11249	Jennifer Charles 11222
Barbara Chasin 14850	Al chazin 11367	Steve Chesler 11222	Carol Chock 14850
Melissa Chu 11222	Christian Cioe 11222	Scott Cioe 11222	Scott Clark 13778
Regina Clarkin 10566	Charissa Collazo 10011	Maria Collins 10956	Kelly Conaty 11222
Patricia Constantino 11231	Karen Cotterell 10012	Mark Creighton 12061	Tamara Crifasi 11215
Bechi Currier 07731	Kate D 10533	Paul Daly 97405	Jennifer Davis 10014
Michael Davis 11217	Michael Davis 11222	Dana DeChaby 11222	Mollie Deckman 11222
Kelly DeVine 11777	Deborah Dewey 12196	Diane DiFante 16878	Stephen Donofrio 11222
Philip Dooley 06084	Charles Dorr 11217	Llubav Duerr 11222	Ben Dumbauld 10040
Samuel Durkin 94534	Erin Edmison 11206	Aaron Eisenberg 11231	Matt Emmi 11249
Sean Endress 11206	Gabriel Engel 11230	Diane ENGLANDER 11968	Caitlin Enz 11102
Anne Erling 12208	Ashley Fallon 11697	Emily Fano 10024	Jane Fasullo 11733
Robert Fleck 10009	graciela flores 11249	Joan Flynn 11694	Matthias Foellmer 11415
Mindy Fortgang 11566	Alicia Fox 11237	Steve Fox 11206	Jeremy Friedman 11221

Payton Gallagher  
11221

Gerald Gaschen  
11249

Chris Gentry  
11211

Ciele  
Gladstein  
14850

Pamela Goldsmith  
11249

Patricia Goldsmith  
12534

Walter  
Goodman  
11233

David Gould  
10024

Stephanie Goulet  
11218

Jeffrey Grossman  
11201

Philip Hale  
11222

Amy Harlib  
10011

Jeffrey Harris  
11222

Brooke Harris  
11222

Lisa Harrison  
10025

Ellen Harvey  
11249

Gerald Hassett  
11104

Claire Haughey  
11233

Justin Hay  
20019

anne heaney  
10014

Charlie Heller 11101	Carol Helm 07430	Brian Henderson 11222	Barb Hertel 11211
Will Heyniger 07753	Kabira Hochberg 11217	Harold T. Hodes 14850	Michael Hofmann 11222
Laura Hofmann 11222	Teresa Hommel 10003	Phillip Hope 10009	Kirsten Hopkins 10034
Rita Houlihan 10025	Sarah Howard 13206	Sara Hull 11206	John Jackson 11222
Angela Jaeger 11211	Paul Jaffe 10982	Alfredo Jefferson 10530	Maria Jimenez 11222
Alex Julca 10025	D. K. LongtimeResident 11211	Jeremy Kaplan 11238	Michele Kaplan 10036
Judith Karpilow 10012	Elizabeth Keefe 10036	Hugh Keleher 14830	Ann Kelly 08054
Caroline Kilbane 11706	Shana Kimball 11222	Brigitte Kinniburgh 10003	Laurence Kirby 12498
Elena Klements 10003	Erin Knitis 11222	Miriam Koren 10605	Marta Koz 11222
Dana Krieger 11238	Delia Kulukundis 11101	Peggy Kurtz 10960	Thomas Lambertson 11901
Liana Lang 18661	pauline larkin 11222	Barbara Laxon 16701	Kenneth Lay 11211
Nydia Leaf 10025	Jennifer Lees 11249	Dorothea Leicher 16914	Eileen Leonard 10033
Veronica Liebert 19026	Jerrold Lieblich 11226	Virginia liebowitz 10002	Sarah Lilley 11222
Elaine Linet 10021	Michael Lombardi 19054	Sharon Longyear 10598	Keith Loomis 14478
Cionin Lorenzo 11215	Liza Lorwin 11215	David Loshak 11234	Anne Lotito-Schuh 11702



Sheila Low-Beer  
29401

Daniel Loxton  
10516

Lisa Lucas  
11211

Marcy Lynn  
11222

Daya M  
11211

Doug MacDonald  
11377

John  
Magisano  
11218

Jean Maiorino  
11694

Marni Majorelle  
11222

catherine Malara  
10970

Mary  
Mallonee  
10530

Alka  
Mansukhani  
11101

Giavana Margo  
11222

Emily Maroney  
10708

Mirabai  
Marquardt  
14502

Loys Martin  
11249

Lorna Mason  
11218

Barbara Mastorgi  
11372

Georgeanne  
Matranga  
11776

Patricia  
Matteson  
12440

Thomas Maurer 11385	Catherine McConnell 11795	Robin McDonald 18951	Joyce McDonald 14580
Maggie McGlinchy 11222	Erik McGregor 11206	Carol McLoughlin 11357	Margaret Mcmahon 11222
Amy McPherson 12586	Lindsay Meiman 10003	Nina Meledandri 11216	Mesa Melton 11222
Anita Mercier 11206	Cindy Moeckel 06278	Brian Monas 11249	Daniel Monks 11238
Carrington Morris 11211	Molly Mosher 11213	carla mota 07310	Aaron Moulin 11373
James Mulcare 99403	Agata Naklicka 11222	Renata Naklicka 11222	Kristina Naplatarski 11222
Kevin Nigey 10509	Thomas Niles 11385	x o 10025	Tom O'Keefe 10014
Ursula Ofman 11249	Elizabeth Oross 10032	shyama orum 10001	Sheila Out 14850
Galicia Outes 11215	C. M. P 10003	Stefan Pacel 11249	Erica Pajerowski 11222
Minju Pak 11222	Leon Paley 08816	William Parsons 11217	eric pash 15701
Roei Paz 11249	Michele Pellar 10027	Sharon Peters 11215	Ryan Peterson 11222
Andrew Poling 11226	Joy Pratt 12180	Brenda Psaras 11940	Marjie Queler 11563
John Rath 12601	Morgan Ratner 11213	Stacy Rau 10016	Kim Reinhardt 11217
Bruce Revesz 07009	Jesse Reyes 07040	Rebecca Reynolds 08831	Paul Rinear 07747
Renee Rizzo 10001	Patrick Robbins 11216	Ewan Robinson 14850	Iris Rochkind 11355

Jessica Roff  
11215

Zev Rosen  
11215

Lara  
Rosenblum  
11222

Rhiannon  
Ross  
11385

Sharon Rothe  
07866

Stephanie Rugoff  
10025

Susan  
Rutman  
10701

Wendy Ryden  
11771

Raphael S.  
11238

Nazmus Saquib  
11222

Susan Sayre  
12498

Wendy Scher  
11233

Naomi Schiller  
10002

Ken Schles  
11238

catherine  
schmitz  
11222

Elisa  
Schreiber  
11222

Elizabeth Schwartz  
11106

Lori Scinto  
07626

Jeffrey  
Seidman  
12603

Doug  
Seidman  
10003

Carmine Sesto  
11222

Patricia Shearman  
12787

Nicolas  
Shearman  
11103

Nancy Sierra  
07430

Rondi Silva  
02666

sasha silverstein  
11217

Taylor  
Sinkiewicz  
11103

corey sipkin  
11222

Maura Smale  
11238

Courtney Smith  
11249

Audrey Smolin  
12208

Elizabeth  
Smyth  
12440

Benjamin Solotaire  
11217

Beth Sopko  
10009

Margot  
Spindelman  
11222

Kelly Spivey  
11210

Howard Stern  
10002

melvyn stevens  
10014

Margaret  
Stofsky  
95503

Susan  
Strande  
10012

Michael Suchman  
11249

Patricia Summers  
11222

Kathleen  
Sweeney  
10033

Christian  
Sweningsen  
12173

Ashton Symonds  
11249

Daniel Tainow  
10002

Lawrence  
Tallamy  
11249

Ko Tanaka  
11234

Dave Tavalin  
10035

Jane Taylor  
10003

Jane Taylor  
10003

