



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Johnson to FERC: Reject Brookfield Pipeline Proposal**

### ***Congresswoman Calls Federal Report “Unacceptable”***

BROOKFIELD, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today said federal regulators should reject the proposal for a gas pipeline compressor station in Brookfield, saying the health and safety of area families should come first.

In a letter to Secretary Magalie Roman Salas of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Johnson said: “It is unacceptable that FERC failed to seriously consider sites that pose less of a risk to students at school, families in their homes, and the local environment.”

“Such alternative sites would impose the relatively small cost of building a few miles of transmission line, but would pose no safety or environmental issues. I urge that FERC reject this proposal for an enlarged compressor station and look for alternatives that do not put 1,000 school children and hundreds of neighborhood families at risk while fully complying with all environmental standards,” she added.

Today’s letter comes after FERC recently published a new environmental report on the planned compressor station for the Iroquois gas pipeline.

In February, Johnson first wrote to Secretary Salas to express her opposition to the plan, and later that month the congresswoman and Brookfield First Selectman Jerry Murphy met with FERC officials in her Washington office to question the proposal and stress the community’s concerns health and safety concerns.

Johnson’s latest letter follows.

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June 19, 2006

The Honorable Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Letter to FERC/2**

Re: Iroquois MarketAccess Project  
Docket No. PF06-6-000

Dear Secretary Salas:

I am writing to once again express my strong opposition to the proposed location of the Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P. transfer compressor station and natural gas cooling facilities in Brookfield, CT. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) did not adequately address the safety issues posed by myself, local officials, and residents. I respectfully urge that FERC reject this plan and encourage Iroquois to find a more suitable location.

The proposed site is a half-mile away from Whisconier Middle School which hosts 1,000 students daily and is surrounded by more than 400 homes within a two-mile radius. Further, the school's playground is 1,900 feet from the location in question. As you are aware, last March a natural gas tank ignited at a Colorado compressor station and an employee was injured. 400 people from 90 homes within a four-mile radius had to be evacuated. In a similar situation it would be extremely difficult to safely evacuate in a timely manner the number of people within that distance of the proposed station's location. The safety of my constituents is my number one concern and in my mind as well as those of local officials and residents there will be real danger to families and school children in the event of a rupture and fire at the station.

It is unacceptable that FERC failed to seriously consider sites that pose less of a risk to students at school, families in their homes, and the local environment. Such alternative sites would impose the relatively small cost of building a few miles of transmission line, but would pose no safety or environmental issues. I urge that FERC reject this proposal for an enlarged compressor station and look for alternatives that do not put 1,000 school children and hundreds of neighborhood families at risk while fully complying with all environmental standards. I appreciate your consideration and attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,

Nancy L. Johnson  
Member of Congress

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