

# Facts on the Milford Compressor Station

The Milford Compressor Station facility is located on Firetower Rd, just north of the Black Walnut Inn in Milford Township, Pennsylvania. It is owned by Columbia Gas Pipeline Co., a subsidiary of NiSource. A compressor station is a facility that pressurizes natural gas to transport it through pipelines.

The current 680 horsepower facility on the property was built in the 1950s and now serves as a metering station to regulate the gas pressure as it moves from the Tennessee Pipeline into the Columbia Pipeline. Blowdowns and venting from the facility emit noxious fumes and loud noise, having solicited hundreds of complaints from neighbors over the years. It is rarely run as a compressor station due to newer facilities upstream along the pipelines, according to NiSource representatives.

According to NiSource's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission application for their proposed East Side Expansion Project, they plan to remove the entire existing facility and replace it with two engines totaling 9,400 horsepower, more than 13 times existing capacity. The stated construction start date is August 1, 2014, but required federal and state permits are not issued yet.

The station will be allowed to emit harmful pollutants that can impact public health and regional air quality. According to the Resources Report submitted by

NiSource, expected emissions from the Milford Compressor Station are as follows:

- 46.2 tons per year of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>)
- 98.3 tons per year of carbon monoxide (CO)
- 0.31 tons per year of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)
- 7.62 tons per year of particulate matter (PM)
- 3.41 tons per year of volatile organic compounds (VOC)
- 0.62 tons per year of hazardous air pollutants (HAP)
- 50,762 tons per year of greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)

The industry best practice for compressor stations as determined by the Natural Gas Star program, a partnership between the Environmental Protection Agency and pipeline companies, is to eliminate emissions by using electric engines and capturing vented gases. These practices eliminate the above emissions, but were not proposed for Milford, forcing residents to breathe toxic pollution to save costs for the company. NiSource is a Natural Gas Star partner that helped develop these best practices and in 2013, their revenue was reported as \$5.7 billion.



These emissions can cause or worsen respiratory illnesses like asthma, COPD, and may cause cancer.

- Methane, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides (NOx) react in the air to form ground level ozone (smog) according to EPA. At low levels, NOx can cause eye, nose, throat, & lung irritation, coughing, shortness of breath, tiredness, nausea, and fluid buildup in lungs. At high levels, rapid burning, spasms, and swelling of the throat and upper respiratory tract, reduced O2 in tissues, fluid buildup in lungs, and even death, according to the Center for Disease Control.
- Hazardous Air Pollutants and Volatile Organic Compounds include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, and formaldehyde, all known or suspected to cause cancer, according to EPA. Other symptoms of exposure include eye, nose and throat irritation, headaches, loss of coordination, nausea, damage to liver, kidney, and central nervous system.

The proximity of the facility to homes, schools, and senior care centers in the Delaware River valley presents acute risk to children's developing lungs and seniors with respiratory or pulmonary illness.

Worsened air quality and further industrialization of a rural landscape can also negatively impact market values of property surrounding the facility and in the region.

In addition to combustion engine emissions, a 90 barrel (~2,835 gallons) condensate tank to store liquids travelling through the pipeline and a 45 barrel (~1,417 gallons) waste liquid tank will be on site. NiSource stated during the pre-filing period that those tanks will be vented and provides no information how the waste will be tended, transported, or disposed of.

The stated need for the upgrade is to send Marcellus Shale gas developed using hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking", to markets north and south. The two shale

drillers listed as customers in the permit application are Cabot Oil & Gas and Southwestern Energy. According to the PA DEP Oil & Gas Compliance Report, Cabot and Southwestern have accumulated a total of 509 and 104 gas well site violations in counties to the west, respectively.

The East Side Expansion Project is part of a regional expansion of midstream pipeline infrastructure linking to proposed export terminals in Maryland, Philadelphia, New York, and Massachusetts that would send methane gas overseas for foreign consumption.

To get involved with the local concerned citizens group and attend our next meeting, contact:

**Alex Lotorto (570) 269-9589**

[alex@energyjustice.net](mailto:alex@energyjustice.net)

**Jolie DeFeis (917) 514-0824**

[jolie\\_defeis@hotmail.com](mailto:jolie_defeis@hotmail.com)

**Our Website: [www.NoMilfordCompressor.org](http://www.NoMilfordCompressor.org)**

*(This fact sheet was updated 5 / 27 / 2014)*

