Marcellus Drilling News

Helping People & Businesses Profit from Northeast Shale Drilling

MDN Weekly Digest

Issue 1, Vol. 7 - Feb 23, 2019

The "meat" and essence of each main story appearing on the *Marcellus Drilling News* (MarcellusDrilling.com) website during the previous week. Read this, and you will have the gist of an entire week's worth of news for those with an interest in what happens in the upstream, midstream and downstream in the Marcellus and Utica Shale region. Click on the "full post" links to read the entire post.

Monday, Feb. 18:

Mountain Valley Pipe Under "Criminal" Investigation by Feds
PA Fracking Wastewater Turned into Clorox Pool Salt
Equitrans Branching Out into Water Pipelines
Former EV Energy Partners Sells Stake in San Juan Basin
Republicans Respond to Green New Deal with Blue Real Deal
Marcellus Laterals Get Longer – Heading for 18,000 Feet!
EIA Says NatGas in Storage Below Average Rest of Winter

Tuesday, Feb. 19:

Encino Establishes Utica HQ in Stark County – Now Hiring
Wyalusing, PA LNG Export Plant Making Progress
Light at End of Tunnel for Constitution, Northern Access Pipelines
PA Gov. Wolf Proposes One-Time Funding for DEP
CT Wisely Reconsiders, Allows NatGas Power Plant to Proceed
MIT Thesis: The U.S. has a NatGas Pipeline Problem
BP Energy Outlook 2019 – US LNG Front and Center

Wednesday, Feb. 20:

EQT Claims 2 Fired Workers Stole Confidential Information
Al Gore Calls Atlantic Coast Pipe Compressor Station "Racist"
Fed Court Rejects Anti Attempt to Emasculate FERC, Block MVP
End of the Road for Sisters of the Corn re Atlantic Sunrise Pipe
EIA Feb '19 Drilling Report: New NatGas Record Again
Nova Scotia Indians Shake Down a 2nd LNG Export Project
Schlumberger & Rockwell Automation Form Jargon-Laden JV

Thursday, Feb. 21:

Exclusive: 2nd LNG Operation Coming to Wyalusing, PA
CNX Faulty Utica Well in SWPA Will Cost Company $30M+
PA Bill Requires Landowner Compensation if DRBC Bans Fracking
Williams Planning 2 New, 2 Upgraded Compressor Stations in NEPA
Smith Twp Residents Say They Have Enough Processing Plants
PA AG Continues Marcellus Witch Hunt, Impanels Grand Jury
Judge Refuses to Shut Down Orange County, NY Gas-Fired Plant

Friday, Feb. 22:

Antero Resources 2018 – $398M Loss, Production Up 20%
Energy Transfer CEO Learns from "Mistakes" Made in Pa.
Epsilon Energy Spending $12-$15M in NEPA Marcellus in 2019
FERC Approves New England Pipeline Expansion
Methanol Plants Huge Users of Marcellus/Utica Gas
PA DEP Threatens to Close Equitrans Gas Storage Field in SWPA
Westchester County Soiling Itself re NatGas Moratorium

MONDAY - Feb. 18, 2019

Mountain Valley Pipeline Under "Criminal" Investigation by Feds (full post)

Is this really the depths to which we've now descended? If you disagree with a legitimate, legal business and their right to engage in a legitimate, legal practice (but you don't like it), you bastardize the legal system and launch a criminal investigation? Increasingly this is what's being done–by liberal Democrats who don't like new "fossil fuel pipelines" from getting built. They sick local or even federal authorities on a project, looking for evidence the project has engaged in "criminal" activity. It's horse manure. And it's now happening to Equitrans' Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project. Equitrans, the spun off and now independent company formerly known as EQT Midstream, recently filed a Form 10-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission, a required annual report filed by all publicly traded companies. In the report (filed last week) Equitrans said they have received a letter from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia stating that it and the federal EPA are "investigating potential criminal and/or civil violations of the Clean Water Act and other federal statutes as they relate to the construction of the MVP." Just last week we reported that MVP is on track to be completely done and in-service by the end of this year. The pipeline is, as of the end of 2018, now 70% built. Great progress is and has been made. So the project's Big Green enemies felt it would be the perfect time to sick the legal dogs on it in an attempt to slow down the project. On February 11, MVP received a grand jury subpoena from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia "requesting certain documents related to the MVP from August 1, 2018 to the present." Time to go fishing to see if a case can be fabricated against the project. MVP's alleged transgression is that it continued work in streams and wetlands after the date that a permit for such work had been revoked. Lawyers for Big Green-backed anti group Preserve Bent Mountain asked the EPA to check into the allegations, which seems to be the genesis of this current witch hunt. (Note to IRS: Are you checking on the tax exempt violations of Preserve Bent Mountain, a group that engages in overt political activity?)

PA Fracking Wastewater Turned into Clorox Pool Salt (full post)

In 2013 Eureka Resources built a Marcellus Shale wastewater treatment facility near Towanda (Bradford County), PA with a capacity to treat up to 10,000 barrels of wastewater per day. Among the products produced at the "Standing Stone" plant near Towanda is swimming pool salt. Antis are having a cow. Using advanced technology, Eureka is able to treat brine–naturally occurring water from the depths that comes out of a well long after the fracking is done–separating and selling the water and then treating and producing salt that gets the Clorox label and is used in swimming pool water. The so-called Public Herald, a leftist, very biased publication, thinks they've found the scoop of the century–finally figuring out that "frack wastewater" is being turned into something that goes in swimming pools. They spin a yarn to make people think that "fracked" saltwater is radioactive and if you swim in a pool treated by it–you'll glow in the dark. Get cancer. All sorts of nasty things will happen to ya. The aim is to encourage a boycott of Clorox salt used in swimming pools in order to get the Clorox contract with Standing Stone canceled, to cut the economic legs out from the under Eureka.

Equitrans Branching Out into Water Pipelines (full post)

Last week Equitrans Midstream (formerly EQT Midstream) released their fourth quarter and full year 2018 update. Something that the Pittsburgh Business Times picked up on is that there was a lot of talk about water–as in expanding the company's water offerings by building new water pipelines. Equitrans announced it has cut deals to provide fresh water for drilling and fracking to a number of companies, including EQT Corp. (the former mothership, no surprise there), as well as deals to service some of EQT's competitors, including Gulfport Energy, CNX Resources, Range Resources, and XTO Energy. The water business will generate roughly $100 million in revenue in 2019, up 64% from 2018.

Former EV Energy Partners Sells Stake in San Juan Basin (full post)

It's been a while, quite a while, since we've heard anything from or about EV Energy Partners, which renamed itself to Harvest Oil & Gas after exiting bankruptcy last June. Harvest still owns assets in the Utica Shale. What's the company been up to? Harvest owns assets in a number of shale basins, including the Utica. The company has just signed a deal to sell all of their assets in the San Juan Basin in New Mexico and Colorado to an undisclosed buyer for $42.8 million. In addition, Harvest has just sold its interest in Magnolia Oil & Gas Corporation stock, some 4.2 million shares, for $51.7 million. So Harvest has just raised close to $95 million. Will they use it to drill new Utica wells? Not likely. The press release mentions the proceeds of the sale, at least from the San Juan sale, will go to pay down debt.

Republicans Respond to Green New Deal with Blue Real Deal (full post)

"OK Republicans, time to put up or shut up" (so says the wacky left-wing fringe of the Democrat Party). "You don't like the Dem's Green New Deal? You think it's certifiably crazy (which it is)? Tell us what *your* plan is to save the environment." Glad you asked! Republicans have one, and it's called switching to natural gas. Republicans propose to replace Communist-inspired Green New Deal with a Blue Real Deal. Last week U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, Republican from Louisiana and a medical doctor, fired back at Dems by releasing a white paper titled, "A Pro-Jobs Approach to Lowering Greenhouse Gas Emissions" (full copy below). We call it the Blue Real Deal. Cassidy said, "Instead of pie-in-the-sky, feel-good pipe dreams, let's do what data and science say actually works." His plan will emphasize converting to and using natural gas, which will lower carbon emissions and nasty pollution. Cassidy's common sense plan stands in stark contrast to the nonsensical plan put forward by Mass. Sen. Ed Markey and Queens Congressgirl Alexandria Occasional-Cortex. Their "Green New Deal" includes forcing middle-class families to tear down their houses, pay higher electricity bills, get rid of their cars, and give up their jobs. In other words, a nightmare of Communist tyranny. How they're not in jail for treason, we're not sure.

Marcellus Laterals Get Longer – Heading for 18,000 Feet! (full post)

A drilling team with experience drilling more than 1,000 Marcellus shale wells in Pennsylvania with laterals from 1,500 feet to 11,000 feet recently published a research paper looking at best practices and what it will take to routinely drill wells with

laterals longer than 18,000 feet. The following is a summary of a paper titled "Drilling Extended Laterals in the Marcellus Shale" was published in the Society of Petroleum Engineers' Journal of Petroleum Technology, outlining the results of important new research.

EIA Says NatGas in Storage Below Average Rest of Winter (full post)

Heading into winter 2018/2019, gas bulls believed low storage numbers + weather (hot or cold) = high natgas prices. It didn't work out that way. Although it sounds mundane, how much natural gas in "working storage" (i.e. gas stored and available to draw upon during winter) does, or rather did, have a great deal to do with the price of natural gas. But a direct correlation between storage and price does not seem to exist any more. We spotted an article by our favorite government agency, the U.S. Energy Information Administration, addressing the amount of natural gas working storage capacity. Let's begin by defining our terms. Here's how EIA defines working gas: "Working gas: The quantity of natural gas in the reservoir that is in addition to the cushion or base gas. It may or may not be completely withdrawn during any particular withdrawal season. Conditions permitting, the total working capacity could be used more than once during any season. Volumes of working gas are reported in thousand cubic feet at standard temperature and pressure." In short, working gas is how much gas gets socked away in underground caverns, waiting to be drawn down during winter. EIA says, in the following article, that storage numbers for this winter have been, and remain lower than the five-year moving average. The EIA runs various scenarios, as they explain.

TUESDAY - Feb. 19, 2019

Encino Establishes Utica HQ in Stark County – Now Hiring (full post)

Last November Encino Acquisition Partners (i.e. Encino Energy) completed its purchase of all of Chesapeake Energy's Ohio Utica Shale assets for $2 billion. Since that time, we've had a number of inquiries from readers asking, will Encino pick up where Chessy left off and maybe expand Ohio drilling? The short answer is, Yes! We do expect they will actually expand on Chesapeake's already-robust drilling program in the Ohio Utica. In the past few years Chesapeake has been active in the Ohio Utica, but not nearly as active as they were in earlier years when Aubrey McClendon ran the company. Encino Energy is a young company, founded in 2011, headquartered in Houston, Texas. In 2017 Encino formed a partnership with Canada Pension Plan Investment Board to form Encino Acquisition Partners. It is the Encino subsidiary that purchased Chessy's Ohio Utica assets. The Encino deal included all of Chesapeake's 933,000 Ohio acres–with 320,000 net Utica acres–and 920 operated and non-operated Ohio Utica wells. Last November following the deal closure, Encino signaled good things would be coming. Encino decided to keep Chesapeake's regional Utica headquarters in Louisville (Stark County), OH. Encino signaled they would finish out drilling a list of wells Chesapeake already identified for 2019, and then in 2020 the company would map its own path, selecting new sites to drill, and drilling more wells on existing well pads. The new news: Encino continues to expand its Louisville HQ with new hiring.

Wyalusing, PA LNG Export Plant Making Progress (full post)

Last November MDN brought you the exciting news that New Fortress Energy is planning to build an LNG (liquefied natural gas) liquefaction EXPORT plant in landlocked Wyalusing (Bradford County), PA. What's happening with the $800 million project? Anything? Yeah, a LOT is happening. It is full speed ahead on the project. The proposed plant will supercool and liquefy locally extracted Marcellus Shale gas (supplied by Chesapeake Energy) and ship it first by truck, eventually by rail, to "customers in the U.S. as well as abroad." Meaning exports. How cool is that? It seems that LNG liquefaction plants no longer have to be located along a shoreline to engage in exports. In fact, we have more information below about the international customers that will buy the LNG coming from the Wyalusing plant. The gas will get shipped to Jamaica, Puerto Rico, California (which we consider a foreign country), and Ireland. So what's happened since the last time we last checked in on this project? For one thing, it didn't take long for Wyalusing Township Supervisors to approve two conditional use permits. That happened lickety-split at the end of November. New Fortress Energy recently went public and began trading shares of stock on the Nasdaq stock exchange. The initial public offering (IPO) raised nearly $300 million for the company. The day after announcing the IPO, the company began trading on the Nasdaq. Our point in telling you about the IPO and going public is to illustrate this company has forward momentum. They have places to go and things to do and building the plant in Wyalusing is at the top of the agenda. Two weeks ago the Wyalusing Chamber of Commerce held a dinner and New Fortress' Brannen McElmurray was the main speaker. From his talk and the Q&A that followed, we learn a great deal more of the background of New Fortress, and about their plans for the future with the Wyalusing facility. One interesting tidbit: Maybe this facility can help bail out floundering Westchester County, NY. Consolidated Edison is placing a moratorium on new natural gas customers beginning March 15. Apparently Con Ed is interested in the Wyalusing facility as a source of natgas for their system in Westchester County. Maybe this facility will help Cuomo salvage his damaged reputation with his fellow Westchestereners.

Light at End of Tunnel for Constitution, Northern Access Pipelines (full post)

Earlier this month MDN told you about a DC Circuit Court of Appeals decision that gives both the Constitution Pipeline and Northern Access Pipeline projects reason for hope. Both pipeline projects run from Pennsylvania into New York State, and both are being blocked for political purposes by NY Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The Hoopa Valley Tribe v. FERC case, recently decided by the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, deals with the recommissioing and decommissioning of a series of hydroelectric dams in Oregon and California. The court decided that Oregon and Cali, by using the technique of pressuring project sponsors seeking a "401" application (authority delegated to states under the federal Clean Water Act) to withdraw and resubmit the application, lengthening the time to consider the application to more than one year, is a waiver of the state's rights to review the application and rule based on the merits of the application. This is complicated stuff. In essence, the court ruled if a state takes more than one year to review a "stream/river crossing" permit, which is the time the federal statute gives them, they have automatically waived their right to block a project. In the Hoopa case, a hydroelectric dam project. Same principle will apply in other states with other types of projects–i.e. pipelines in NY. The sharp minds at RBN Energy have noticed this case and what it

means for both the Constitution and Northern Access projects. RBN's Rick Smead, in a post published yesterday, says while it's not (yet) a slam dunk for these two important projects, "there may finally be a light at the end of the tunnel" for both projects. Rick does a great job in describing both projects and how the gas they would flow will serve both NY and New England. We thought it worth bringing you Rick's excellent post.

PA Gov. Wolf Proposes One-Time Funding for DEP (full post)

We won't pretend to understand the wacky math Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf is attempting to perpetrate on the good citizens of PA. The state Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) wants to raise permit fees on Marcellus Shale drillers by 250% in order to help fund the agency, claiming the oil and gas program loses $800,000 per month. Yet Wolf now wants to take money *out of* the DEP budget and replace it with one-time transfers from other off-budget funds. How does that math add up? Not only does Wolf want to put the screws to drillers with insanely high permit fees, he also wants to tax them out of existence with a 5% severance tax *on top of* the existing ~5% impact fee (i.e. tax), which would make PA drillers the highest taxed in the country. Yet Wolf wants to remove money from the DEP budget, and replace it with one-time transfers. Two years ago when Republicans suggested such a plan, both Gov. Wolf and DEP Secretary Pat McDonnell said such a plan was crazy. Now they're both singing a different tune. Ever hear of talking out of both sides of your mouth?

CT Wisely Reconsiders, Allows NatGas Power Plant to Proceed (full post)

The State of Connecticut's "Siting Council" has changed its mind. In 2016, NTE Energy proposed building a 650-megawatt natural gas-fired electric plant in Killingly. The Siting Council said NTE couldn't justify the plant and refused to issue a certificate. That was then, this is now. The Siting Council is once again actively considering the project. What changed? We'll tell you what changed–some 6,000 megawatts of older, less-efficient power plants in the region are retiring and without new plants coming online to provide electricity, Connecticut and its neighboring New England states will begin to experience rolling blackouts if they don't make up the difference with new supplies of electricity. The Siting Council woke up and understands they're screwed without new natgas-fired electric plants. Windmills and solar panels will not meet the new and expanding need for more electricity. They can help, but they are not a complete solution. The wind sometimes does not blow, and last time we checked, the sun doesn't shine at night. Battery storage is not yet to the point that energy from intermittent sources like solar and wind can be stored. Natural gas-fired plants are the solution, and Connecticut knows it.

MIT Thesis: The U.S. has a NatGas Pipeline Problem (full post)

We spotted an article based on the research done for a graduate thesis by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) graduate student. The thesis and article look at the reality of our country's energy supply and concludes that unless we can find a way to reduce our reliance on natural gas (not likely), we need more new pipelines, and we need to repair and upgrade old/existing pipelines. In short, we have a pipeline problem in this country. Immediately below is the article that first caught our attention. In researching it and trying to locate the original thesis paper, we uncovered useful and intriguing materials–an executive summary, and a slide deck with some great information in it. All on the topic that we need more/better natural gas pipelines. First up, the article that caught our attention...

BP Energy Outlook 2019 – US LNG Front and Center (full post)

UK oil and gas giant BP recently released its 2019 edition of their BP Energy Outlook. As they do each year, BP predicts renewable energy sources will continue to grow. However, the inescapable conclusion you get from this latest report is that LNG (liquefied natural gas) will play a staring role in the energy picture over the next 20 years. Not only that, but LNG coming from the U.S. is will receive the best actor award. BP says two-thirds of the world's population still lives in places with relatively low energy consumption. Their point: The world needs to generate more energy. And where will it come from? According to BP, some 85% of new sources of energy will be from burning natural gas and from renewables. Here are some of the key points in the report: * The Energy Outlook considers different aspects of the energy transition and the key issues and uncertainties these raise. * In all the scenarios considered, world GDP more than doubles by 2040 driven by increasing prosperity in fast-growing developing economies. * In the Evolving transition (ET) scenario this improvement in living standards causes energy demand to increase by around a third over the Outlook, driven by India, China and Other Asia which together account for two-thirds of the increase. * Despite this increase in energy demand, around two-thirds of the world's population in 2040 still live in countries where average energy consumption per head is relatively low, highlighting the need for 'more energy'. * Energy consumed within industry and buildings accounts for around three-quarters of the increase in energy demand. * Growth in transport demand slows sharply relative to the past, as gains in vehicle efficiency accelerate. The share of passenger vehicle kilometres powered by electricity increases to around 25% by 2040, supported by the growing importance of fully-autonomous cars and shared-mobility services. * The world continues to electrify, with around three-quarters of the increase in primary energy absorbed by the power sector. * Renewable energy is the fastest growing source of energy, contributing half of the growth in global energy supplies and becoming the largest source of power by 2040. * Demand for oil and other liquid fuels grows for the first part of the Outlook before gradually plateauing. * The increase in liquids production is initially dominated by US tight oil, but OPEC production subsequently increases as US tight oil declines. * Natural gas grows robustly, supported by broad-based demand and the increasing availability of gas, aided by the continuing expansion of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

WEDNESDAY - Feb. 20, 2019

EQT Claims 2 Fired Workers Stole Confidential Information (full post)

On Tuesday EQT filed lawsuits in both Pennsylvania and federal courts against two former employees it had fired, claiming the employees, before they were fired (sensing it was coming) had systematically copied confidential information from company computers and took it with them when they left. You may recall that in early January EQT said they could save themselves $50 million by firing 15% of their workforce. We find such mass firings loathsome. Irregardless, that doesn't give a fired, or about to be fired, employee justification for stealing a company's intellectual property. EQT's lawsuits aim to block the employees

from either using or disseminating any of the information they allegedly took. The two employees named in the lawsuits are reservoir engineer Jeffrey Lo and production engineering manager Charles Cunningham. Lo is named in the federal lawsuit and Cunningham is named in the PA state lawsuit (Allgeheny County Court of Common Pleas). The federal lawsuit against Lo claims: "Sensing his employment at EQT was nearing its end, natural gas reservoir engineer Lo entered EQT headquarters in the dark of night in the early morning hours on January 7, 2019 with a singular purpose: to steal EQT's trade secrets and other confidential and proprietary information. EQT's recent forensic analysis shows that Lo had been downloading for several months EQT's trade secrets, confidential documents and data and proprietary operating files on hard drive until he removed it in the hours preceding his termination." The state lawsuit against Cunningham claims: "The forensic evidence demonstrates that Cunningham perpetuated a swift and highly damaging raid of the confidential information during the early morning hours of January 7, 2019, only hours prior to his termination later that same day. The entire contents of Cunningham's EQT OneDrive, which includes the confidential information and hundreds of thousands of documents in total, totaling approximately 52 gigabytes of data, were copied to the 'Backup Jan 19' folder on the USB drive."

Al Gore Calls Atlantic Coast Pipe Compressor Station "Racist" (full post)

The race-baiting, bloated old windbag Al Gore has popped up again, coming out of his massive fossil fuel-powered mansion, traveling to Virginia via fossil fuel-powered motorcade, sitting in a fossil fuel-heated church with a handful of black folks to pronounce Atlantic Coast Pipeline's plan to build a compressor station nearby is "reckless" and a "vivid example of environmental racism." We previously reported that a black pastor Paul Wilson in Buckingham, Virginia near the location of the compressor was voted out of a job after his incessant political activity opposing Dominion Energy's Atlantic Coast Pipeline project. Rev. Wilson and race-baiting anti fossil fuelers tried to make the case that locating a compressor station in the "historic" black area of Buckingham County–a place founded by emancipated slaves–is somehow racist. It is the same old argument used elsewhere, which is that evil pipeline companies intentionally decide to locate pipelines and compressor stations in places where there's po' folk and black folk, people who can't fight back. The pipelines stay out of rich white folk territory. That argument is loathsome and disgusting and manifestly, 100 percent, untrue. But the charge has been made and the blood is in the water. The good news is that Virginia didn't fall for it. The Virginia State Air Quality Board, at the prompting of Gov. Ralph Northam, voted in early January to approve the ACP compressor station. It's one thing when bush league race-baiters like Rev. Wilson a fossil fuel project is racist. But when national race-baiters like Al Gore show up, the end is near. He wouldn't be opposing this project publicly unless he thought Dominion was about to cave and move the location of the compressor station. People like Al Gore only show up when they are reasonably assured they can claim a "win" against fossil fuels. Gore thinks he now has leverage against a weakened Virginia governor, Northam, not because of Northam's outrageous comments about making little newborn babies comfortable before murdering them (calling it abortion)–oh no. That's just dandy with Gore. He's going after Northam because Northam was stupid enough to wear blackface and get a picture taken of himself wearing it–some 30 years ago. Gore is using the current "blackface" crisis to pressure Northam, telling Northam he should change his position and block the ACP compressor station project in order to prove he's not really a racist after all. Sleazy. We feel filthy just writing about what the sleazy Gore is doing and saying.

Fed Court Rejects Anti Attempt to Emasculate FERC, Block MVP (full post)

Finally some good news in our war against the forces of evil (i.e. Big Green). The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has rejected a lawsuit by Big Green groups that would have blocked Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) and, as a bonus, would have emasculated the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's decision-making ability for all pipeline projects. Appalachian Mountain Advocates (AMA), a radical group that proudly proclaims on their website they intend to assassinate the natural gas industry as they have done with the coal industry, filed a case with the DC Circuit in which they attempted to use verbal jiu-jitsu to confuse and confound the judges. AMA's argument went something like this: FERC claims they evaluated the MVP project and determined there is a public need for it. Yet as part of the evaluation, FERC did not calculate the impact of the project on mythical man-made global warming–so how could FERC know the project truly benefits the public without knowing the warming impact? Ergo, the court should overturn FERC's authorization of the project, and make FERC go back to the drawing board in its evaluation process. FERC fired back with the argument of "How can you know of the impact of the gas flowing through the pipeline when you don't know exactly how it will be used?" To which AMA (and apparently one judge) asked, "Then how did you perform your evaluation?" The whole case is bollocks right from the beginning–because there IS NO GLOBAL WARMING. Just ask those of us in the northeast freezing our rear-ends off this winter. We've had some of the coldest temps in decades. Yet the highest amount of CO_2 is floating around in the atmosphere, supposedly put there by burning fossil fuels, creating a canopy warming the earth. Nonsense. Fortunately the judges didn't buy antis' arguments.

End of the Road for Sisters of the Corn re Atlantic Sunrise Pipe (full post)

The Sisters of the Corn (our name for the a group of leftist nuns in Lancaster County, PA) asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear a case in which they claim their religious freedom has been trampled by Williams running a pipeline (Atlantic Sunrise) across their property. The case came up for consideration with the Supremes and they declined to hear it, meaning it's the end of the road for the Sisters and the green group backing them. After losing their case in a series of lower courts, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ (aka Sisters of the Corn) asked the high court to hear their complaint about Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline cutting through a corn field on their property where they had hastily erected a flower trellis and a few wooden park benches, calling it a "chapel." Supposedly the pipeline disrupted the "chapel" and consequently disrupted the practice of their religion. The Sisters wanted the court to believe their religious freedom had been trampled on. In reality, a group of green radicals called Lancaster Against Pipelines was behind the Sisters' lawsuit–paying for it, using the Sisters as a front to advance their leftist anti-fossil fuel agenda. Whether or not to try the case before the high court, a preliminary hearing, was held on Tuesday. At least four Supremes need to vote to accept a case for the court to fully hear and rule on it. The Supremes get 8,000 such requests each year, and accept maybe 80 (or 1%). This case didn't make the cut.

EIA Feb '19 Drilling Report: New NatGas Record Again (full post)

Yesterday our favorite government agency, the U.S. Energy Information Administration, issued our favorite monthly report, the Drilling Productivity Report. The DPR is a forecast of oil and gas production in the country's seven major shale plays for the coming month, made by the expert number crunchers at EIA. The latest DPR shows that the Marcellus/Utica region (called Appalachia in the report) will expand by another 310 million cubic feet of natural gas production per day (MMcf/d) next month. That rate of growth is up from last month's 232 MMcf/d prediction for February, closer to the typical one-third or more Bcf/d per month rise we saw in the later half of 2018. The Permian Basin, an oil play, continues to be white hot with natural gas production, going up another 219 MMcf/d. The Haynesville will go up 160 MMcf/d next month. Overall, natural gas production across all seven major shale plays will hit yet another all-time high record: 77.9 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), up from 77.6 Bcf/d in February. The Marcellus/Utica is also hitting a new record high: 31.6 Bcf/d, which is 41% of all gas produced by the Big 7.

Nova Scotia Indians Shake Down a 2nd LNG Export Project (full post)

Earlier this month MDN brought you the news that one of two active LNG export projects in Nova Scotia had agreed to pay (off) an undisclosed amount of money to the The Mi'kmaq (pronounced mic-mac) indigenous peoples of Nova Scotia (i.e. Indians), a payment of which means the Indians will leave them alone so they can build their facility and not face endless lawsuits. It's just happened again. The Mi'kmaq have never formally surrendered their "ownership" claim of Nova Scotia–a claim long disputed. In order to build and operate the Goldboro LNG export facility, Pieridae agreed to pay off the Mi'kmaq. Call it "leave us alone" money. If Pieridae or any other big petchem operation wants to set up operation in Nova Scotia, they must pay a fee to the Mi'kmaq to be left alone and allowed to operate. Otherwise they face never ending lawsuits. That's how it works in organized crime, and that's how it works with "First Nations" Indians in Canada. So we weren't surprised to learn that the Mi'kmaq have shaken down the other active LNG project in N.S. too–LNG Limited's Bear Head LNG project. Two years ago we reported that of several announced Canadian LNG export projects, Bear Head seemed to have the most momentum. The project has most of the necessary permits it needs to proceed. An official, two years ago, said the project is "shovel-ready" and can begin at any time. That sure didn't happen. Maybe they needed to settle with the Mi'kmaq first? The reason we track these Nova Scotia projects is because a potential source of natural gas to feed the plants may come from the Marcellus Shale via the Maritimes & Northeast pipeline, converted to be bidirectional. These days it seems more likely the plants will get fed by Western Canadian gas, via TransCanada's cross country pipeline network. At any rate, here's the news that the Mi'kmaq have struck again, and that Bear Head has signed an agreement to use labor unions to build the plant when/if it gets built.

Schlumberger & Rockwell Automation Form Jargon-Laden JV (full post)

OK boys and girls. Get out your secret decoder rings. We need to figure out what the heck just happened when Sclumberger and Rockwell got married and had a kid named Sensia. What will this new company, with 1,000 workers, actually do? That's today's assignment–to figure it out, picking through buzzwords and jargon. Here's the press released issued by Schlumberger and Rockwell that caught our attention..."The Sensia joint venture will be the first fully integrated provider of measurement solutions, domain expertise, and automation to the oil and gas industry." What the heck does that even mean? Sensia will be "a leading technology provider." What technology? It will offer "scalable, cloud and edge-enabled process automation." Er, OK. These are all buzzwords and insider lingo and frankly, gobbledygook. We know that Schlumberger is the world's largest oilfield services company–they do the drilling and fracking for hire. Rockwell Automation, well, automates things. The two are joining forces to launch a new, independent company called Sensia. Where did that name come from? The company will sell sensor-measuring equipment that has artificial intelligence loaded into it, to help drillers drill wells faster with fewer people. The name Sensia comes from jamming "sensor" together with "IA" (artificial intelligence). Sounds like they want to get all equipment–trucks, drills, engines of various kinds, mud loggers–everything on the pad–to have internet connectivity and be able to talk to each other and to a main computer. By computerizing "dumb" equipment, they can make drilling faster, safer, better, etc. We think that's the aim here. Stick the internet (and sensors) on everything. Why do we even care? Because Schlumberger is the largest oilfield services company in the world, and they do a lot of work in the Marcellus/Utica. Hopefully this new tech will give us better drilling here in the northeast.

THURSDAY - Feb. 21, 2019

Exclusive: 2nd LNG Operation Coming to Wyalusing, PA (full post)

On Tuesday we brought you an update about New Fortress Energy's LNG plant planned for Wylausing (Bradford County), PA. In researching that story we stumbled across news that (so far) nobody else has published: There is a second LNG plant planned for Wyalusing. In fact, the second plant is under construction right now! In researching material for the Tuesday post about New Fortress, we ran across a press release from Dominion Energy and Rev LNG from last October announcing a joint venture to create new smaller LNG plants, the first of which will be built in Wyalusing. The jv is called NiCHe, LLC and is meant to supply LNG to "commercial and industrial users to local gas utilities and power generation facilities." There are big differences between the new Dominion/REV LNG facility and the planned New Fortress facility. NiCHe will serve local and regional customers, while New Fortress is exporting their LNG to other countries (and to California). NiCHe's daily liquefaction capacity is approximately 50,000 gallons per day, while the New Fortress facility will liquefy up to 3.5 million gallons per day. And while New Fortress eventually wants to use railroad to ship its LNG, initially shipments go via LNG tanker trucks, some 10-15 of them *per hour* entering and leaving the facility. NiCHe will see between 1-6 truck trips *per day* at its facility, depending on demand. In other words, it is an entirely different scope of operation between the two facilities. In one sense the NiCHe operation is similar to CNG virtual pipelines we've seen set up shop in Susquehanna County, PA. NiCHe will, like CNG virtual pipeline operations, truck its LNG to customers. But LNG is far different from CNG. CNG is compressed to 3,000 pounds per square inch. LNG is supercooled to minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit and takes up 1/600th of the space of the original gas. You can fit far more "gas" into an LNG tanker than you can in a CNG tanker. But LNG also requires the customer to have regasification equipment. LNG is used for larger consumers who

need higher volumes of gas. We reached out to Dominion and got confirmation that the project is already under construction.

CNX Faulty Utica Well in SWPA Will Cost Company $30M+ (full post)

CNX was fracking their Shaw 1G Utica well in Washington Township (Westmoreland County) on Saturday, Jan. 26, when they detected "a strong drop in pressure" and stopped fracking. Turns out the well was "communicating" (i.e. losing gas to) several nearby conventional wells. The working theory is that the well has a faulty casing (cement and pipe in the borehole) about a mile down. The casing leaked and the gas found its way via cracks to other wells in the area–some nine nearby conventional wells that had to be flared. No wells are flaring now. CNX hired a well control company to "kill" the Shaw 1G well. Earlier this week in a revised 2019 guidance slide deck CNX revealed they will spend $30 million on the Shaw pad this year, including remediation costs. They will permanently plug Shaw 1G, but no decisions have yet be made on whether or not they will finish fracking the other three wells on the same pad. Just to add insult to injury, the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection sent CNX a "notice of violation" for the accident, which is a notice warning CNX they will have to fork over tens of thousands (maybe hundreds of thousands) of dollars in fines once this is all over and done.

PA Bill Requires Landowner Compensation if DRBC Bans Fracking (full post)

Three more cheers for Pennsylvania State Senator Lisa Baker (Republican from Luzerne County). Rather than wait for the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to move forward with adopting a threatened ban on fracking that includes several counties in PA, Baker isn't waiting. She's taking a different approach to defeating a proposed DRBC frack ban. Her approach is to bankrupt the DRBC if they decide to move forward with it. Bankrupt them how? By introducing a bill which, if it becomes law, would make a DRBC fracking ban officially a government "taking" under eminent domain. If the government "takes" (or seizes) a citizen's property, that citizen is, under law, owed money from the government entity seizing the property. There is no way on God's green earth the DRBC would/could have enough money to pay all of the landowners it's shafting with a frack ban. Affected landowners live primarily in Wayne and Pike counties in northeastern PA–in Baker's district. This is not the first time Baker has introduced this bill. She did so in the last session of the PA legislature. Unfortunately the bill didn't get far last year. Even if it gets passed in both the House and Senate, we seriously doubt PA's feckless governor, Tom Wolf, would sign it. Still, it sends an important signal and keeps the DRBC off balance.

Williams Planning 2 New, 2 Upgraded Compressor Stations in NEPA (full post)

Williams is in the process of conducting open houses for a series of compressor station projects part of it's recently announced Leidy South Project. The project will expand capacity along the Transco Pipeline system, including the newly minted Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline portion of Transco, adding another 582 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d) of capacity to the Transco in northeast PA. In December MDN brought you the news that Williams is planning their new Leidy expansion project. The confusing thing is that Dominion Energy also had a project (built in 2017) by the same identical name, Leidy South. Don't confuse Williams' Leidy South, a brand new project, with Dominion's Leidy South. We told you in our December article that the upgrades proposed by Williams for their Leidy South project include "replacing smaller pipeline with larger pipeline in some areas, adding "looping" in other areas, and upgrading four compressor stations." That wasn't 100% accurate. Williams is upgrading two compressor stations, and building two brand new compressor stations. Here's a list of the work to be done for Leidy South re compressor stations. Existing Locations: (1) Compressor Station 605 – Uprate the two existing electric motor driven compressors from 15,000 horsepower ("hp") to 21,000 hp each at Transco's existing Compressor Station 605 in Wyoming County, PA; (2) Compressor Station 610 – Add one turbine driven compressor unit and cooling at Transco's existing Compressor Station 610 in Columbia County, PA. New Locations: (1) Compressor Station 607 – Install two turbine driven compressor units and cooling in Luzerne County, PA; (2) Compressor Station 620 – Install one turbine driven compressor unit in Schuylkill County, PA. One of the new compressor stations will be built in Schuylkill County, the other new compressor will be built in neighboring Luzerne County (Wilkes-Barre area). Williams held an open house for the Luzerne compressor station yesterday.

Smith Twp Residents Say They Have Enough Processing Plants (full post)

A single township in Washington County, PA, Smith Township, is home to two "sprawling" shale gas complexes that process and separate Marcellus/Utica gas extracted in southwestern Pennsylvania. One is MarkWest Energy's Harmon Creek complex, and the other Energy Transfer's Revolution complex. Area residents think they have quite enough infrastructure and are asking town officials to throttle back new development. The MarkWest Harmon Creek facility processes up to 200 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d) of natural gas, separating out methane from the other hydrocarbons. It also has (or soon will, not sure if it's done yet) a plant that further separates out ethane–up to 20,000 barrels per day of ethane separation. The nearby Revolution complex built by Energy Transfer also separates out methane and ethane AND propane. We can't locate the capacity specs for the complex, but right now the plant is idled waiting for the state DEP to allow ET to restart the Revolution gathering pipeline following an explosion last September. Needless to say, there are a LOT of buildings between these two complexes, and a lot of pipelines going in and out. In addition to the processing plants, compressor stations are also part of the mix. Some local residents, those living up to three miles away, think enough is enough. They are asking local leaders to clamp down on allowing any more expansions at the two facilities. They say any new kinds of shale infrastructure facilities should be built in areas zoned for industrial use.

PA AG Continues Marcellus Witch Hunt, Impanels Grand Jury (full post)

PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro, a sleazy politician, is investigating so-called environmental "crimes" committed by shale companies in a bid to boost his chances of being the next nominee to run for governor. One of Shapiro's sham investigations is into Range Resources and the long-ago settled "Haney" court case. We recently explained, in detail, what the Haney case was about, and why reopening that closed-and-sealed case borders on the illegal. One of the parties that sued Range in the Haney case (whom Range later settled with) is Stephanie Hallowich (see our stories about the Hallowich's here). Although Stephanie is under a court order to keep her mouth closed about the Range settlement, she is allowed to talk about it under oath if and when she receives a subpoena. The sleazy Josh Shapiro has

impaneled a grand jury in Pittsburgh to hear testimony about faux "crimes" that may have been committed by the shale industry, and he called Stephanie to testify before the panel yesterday. How anyone can't see this for what it is, political grandstanding by Shapiro to raise his own invisible status to visible in a race that's four years away, is beyond us. There is a word for those who abuse their office in order to benefit themselves: corruption. The article we included was co-written by anti-shale crusader Don Hopey, who sometimes masquerades as a journalist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Here's a question: Who fed Don the info about the exact time and day and witness list of a secret grand jury? Nobody is supposed to know that a grand jury is meeting or even exists, let alone who is testifying at a particular time on a particular day. Was it Shapiro who leaked the details to Hopey? We're pretty sure someone committed a crime in passing along that information to Hopey. Yet an incurious media won't say a word about it. You may recall PA's last infamous AG, Kathleen Kane, leaked grand jury information and later lied about it under oath, committing the felony of perjury. She's sitting in jail right now because of it. Will history repeat itself?

Judge Refuses to Shut Down Orange County, NY Gas-Fired Plant (full post)

Last October Competitive Power Ventures' 680-megawatt CPV Valley Energy Center in Wawayanda (Orange County), NY fired up and began producing, using Marcellus gas, enough electricity to power 600,000 liberal NY homes. New York Gov. Cuomo tried his best to block the plant from going online, but failed. Four days before the plant was set to start up, the Cuomo-corrupted Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) pulled the ultimate dirty trick and refused to renew an air permit for the plant they previously issued five years earlier. The DEC said the plant now needs a different (federal) air permit before it can start up. As we told you in a followup article, the DEC's dirty trick left CPV with three options. Option #2 in our list was to ask a judge to overturn the DEC's decision (our preferred option). CPV exercised that option and by golly, the judge agreed and blocked DEC's ability to stop the plant from starting up. However, whether or not the plant needs a new federal air permit is still being litigated. While it's being litigated, the corrupt DEC asked a judge to force the plant to shut down. Last week the judge refused, telling CPV the plant can continue to operate without the new permit and without having to pay fines–until the court case is finalized.

FRIDAY - Feb. 22, 2019

Antero Resources 2018 – $398M Loss, Production Up 20% (full post)

Antero Resources, one of the biggest drillers in the Marcellus/Utica region (focused on wet gas drilling), released its full year and fourth quarter 2018 update last week. The company reports 2018 daily gas equivalent production averaged a record 2.7 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d)–up 20% over 2017. 4Q18 production averaged 3.2 Bcf/d, up 37% over 4Q17 (and up 18% from 4Q18). However, the company's financial performance wasn't as stellar. The company lost $398 million for the full year versus making a profit of $615 million in 2017, which is a $1 billion swing into the red in just one year. Antero lost $122 million in 4Q18 vs. making a profit of $487 million in 4Q17, a $609 million swing into the red. Still, there's a lot to like about what Antero accomplished in 2018, and what they plan to do in 2019. Did we mention that Antero is a "pure play" driller–focused 100% on the Marcellus/Utica? Which makes us love them all the more. We have a lot to share. Where do we begin? How about with a quick overview of Antero's drilling program in 4Q18. Antero placed 39 horizontal Marcellus wells to sales during the fourth quarter of 2018 with an average lateral length of 10,600 feet and an average 30-day initial rate per well of 21.6 MMcfe/day on choke. The 30-day average rate per well included 1,268 Bbl/d of liquids, including oil, C3+ NGLs and 25% ethane recovery. Notable results from the wells placed to sales during the fourth quarter are below: * A 10-well pad with an average lateral length of 9,700 feet and average BTU of 1230, produced a 60-day average rate of 195 MMcfe/d, including 1,400 Bbl/d of oil, 5,700 Bbl/d of C3+ NGLs and 3,000 Bbl/d of recovered ethane, at 25% ethane recovery * A 1300 BTU well with a lateral length of 15,100 feet, produced a 60-day rate of 29.0 MMcfe/d, including 660 Bbl/d of oil, 1,030 Bbl/d of C3+ NGLs and 410 Bbl/d of recovered ethane, at 25% ethane recovery. During the period, Antero drilled 31 wells with an average lateral length of 10,100 feet in an average of 11.5 total days from spud to final rig release, which represents a 7% reduction in total drilling time from 2017 levels. In addition, Antero drilled an average of 5,100 lateral feet per day in the quarter, a 12% increase in lateral footage performance compared to 2017. Completion efficiencies further improved during the fourth quarter, increasing to 5.7 stages per day from 5.5 stages per day in the third quarter of 2018. Notably, Antero averaged 6.0 stages per day in October and November. For the full year of 2018, Antero averaged 5.2 stages per day, which is an increase of one full stage per day from the 2017 average of 4.2 stages per day.

Energy Transfer CEO Learns from "Mistakes" Made in Pa. (full post)

Earlier this week Energy Transfer, the company that built the Rover Pipeline in Ohio, the Revolution Pipeline in southwestern Pennsylvania, and the Mariner East pipelines that run from eastern OH clear across PA to Philadelphia, issued its fourth quarter and full year 2018 update. The thing that caught our attention is an admission by ET's CEO Kelcy Warren that the company has made "mistakes" with its pipeline projects in PA, and has learned from those mistakes. Two weeks ago Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf declared full-on war with Energy Transfer and its Sunoco Logistics subsidiary by directing the state Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) to suspend all reviews of clean water permit applications and other pending approvals for all of ET/Sunoco's pipeline projects in the state, including Mariner East 2 (ME2) and the Revolution pipeline project. The stated reason for the no-new-permits action is lack of progress in fixing eroding, sliding hillsides for the Revolution pipeline project, a 24-inch gathering pipeline in Beaver County, PA (Pittsburgh area) which shifted and exploded last September. Warren says ET has learned from their "mistakes" with Revolution and Mariner East. You might reasonable ask the question, "So what is ET doing to correct those mistakes?" The solution to correcting the "mistakes" and earning back the trust of PA, according to Warren, is: (1) Engineering & Construction now reports directly to Warren, the CEO. (2) They cleaned house and there's a new team in place to oversee construction. Will it be enough to win back approval from the DEP to restart now stalled projects to complete Mariner East 2 and 2X? Time will tell.

Epsilon Energy Spending $12-$15M in NEPA Marcellus in 2019 (full post)

From time to time we check in on Epsilon Energy, which concentrates most of its effort on the Marcellus in Susquehanna County, PA. The former Canadian company decided to

"domesticate" itself, moving headquarters from Canada to Houston, TX last summer. The company reports it will spend a total of $20-$25 million on various drilling activities in 2019, with 60% of that ($12-$15 million) in the Marcellus. Does Epsilon actually do any of its own drilling? No. They partner with (give money to) other companies and the other companies do the actual drilling. Epsilon, according to their website, owns 5,750 net acres in the PA Marcellus. As you can see on the following map, their acreage is located in southwest Susquehanna County and (according to the website), is operated by Chesapeake Energy. As you can see, the majority of their acreage is located in Rush Township.

FERC Approves New England Pipeline Expansion (full post)

Last November the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) signaled a project by TransCanada called the Portland XPress Project (PXP) would soon get a final approval, by giving the project a favorable environmental review. Not even three months later, FERC has just given final approval for the project to begin. PXP is a project to increase the capacity of TransCanada's Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS), a 295-mile pipeline that spans New England from the Canadian border to pipeline connections in New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts. No, TransCanada is not proposing to build any new pipelines as part of their plan. In fact, there is very little construction in PXP. Phases I & II, last time we checked, were under construction. TransCanada filed for Phase III in June. Last November FERC issued a favorable environmental assessment (EA) for Phase III of the project, which is prelude to issuing a final approval. TransCanada filed Phase I of PXP on April 20, requesting permission to begin flowing an extra 39.8 million cubic feet (MMcf) of natural gas from Pittsburg, NH, to Westbrook, ME, and to increase the flow from and to Canada. In Phase II, filed in May, TransCanada asked FERC for permission to flow an extra 11.3 MMcf from Westbrook, ME, to Dracut, MA. Phase III, filed in June, outlines plans to add an additional compressor unit at an existing compressor station along with a few other bits and bobs. And now Phase III is fully, officially, approved. While we find it good news that capacity throughout the PNGTS will expand, as we reported last week the distressing news is that TransCanada's ultimate plan is not to fill that extra capacity with Marcellus/Utica gas, but with Western Canadian gas. With PXP now well on its way to completion, TransCanada revealed its ultimate plan by announcing the Westbrook XPress project just last week–a $100 million expansion project for the PNGTS system that will work hand-in-glove with the PXP expansion to deliver Canadian gas into New England. Ugh.

Methanol Plants Huge Users of Marcellus/Utica Gas (full post)

US Methanol broke ground in September 2017 in Institute (Kanawha County), WV to build its very first methanol production plant. Methanol plants convert natural gas into methanol, used as a chemical feedstock (raw material) to create other things, like gasoline, antifreeze, plastic bottles–even LED and LCD screens. Methanol plants use a LOT of natural gas, hence our interest. Methanol plants use a lot of natural gas for two reasons: (1) It is the feedstock, the raw material that is transformed into methanol, which is then used to create other things. (2) The plants themselves use a lot of heat energy, and that heat energy is provided by (yep) natural gas. So these plants use HUGE amounts of natural gas. Very important new demand centers. The new plant in Institute is called Liberty One and was supposed to open in mid-2018. That changed. The timeline to complete the plant is now fourth quarter of 2019. Interesting factoid: the plant in Institute is being constructed/assembled from a deconstructed methanol plant from Brazil. We like it when things that were offshored are re-onshored here in the U.S. of A. The WV methanol plant is not the only methanol plant under construction in the U.S. Two other plants are being built along the Gulf Coast and will come online this year and next. The three methanol plants together will materially move the needle on industrial natural gas usage, a topic that caught the notice of the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

PA DEP Threatens to Close Equitrans Gas Storage Field in SWPA (full post)

Natural gas storage fields are an important, but often overlooked, part of the natgas ecosystem. Equitrans (nee EQT Midstream) owns a natgas storage field in Greene County, PA, in the southwest corner of the state. The state Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) is threatening to shut down that storage field, because of coal mining in the area. There is active coal mining in Greene County, near the Equitrans Swarts storage field. The DEP has discovered some uncharted and unreported abandoned conventional gas wells in the area–dozens of them. Here's the problem: Coal miners begin to dig, and if they hit an old gas well and that gas well is connected to the storage field–you can imagine. Gas leaks, coal miners die. A spark ignites the gas. Huge explosion and fire. Lot's of things will happen nobody wants to happen. The DEP says they had asked Equitrans for a detailed survey, to ensure there aren't uncharted abandoned gas wells. And that Equitrans has not used "every known reasonable method" to find them. Therefore, the DEP is threatening to close down the Swarts field indefinitely. Equitrans has appealed the DEP's order regarding Swarts.

Westchester County Soiling Itself re NatGas Moratorium (full post)

Now that the reality has begun to sink in that there will be no magic bullet, no magic wand waved to prevent Consolidated Edison from refusing to add new customers (like hotels, apartment buildings, etc.) to its natural gas distribution system in Westchester County, NY, politicians and business leaders in the county are beginning to soil themselves. Certainly metaphorically–maybe literally. We continue to laugh AT the so-called leaders of Westchester County. One of their own residents, Andy Cuomo, is the cause of the coming economic destruction in the county. Yet they refuse to acknowledge it. We've covered this story extensively over the past month or so (see our Westchester County stories here). Until now the stories we've read in mainstream news portray Westchester County officials in various forms of denial. Like, "This really isn't happening, is it?" And, "Somehow the state, Cuomo, someone will tell Con Ed to back off. It'll happen any day now." That's the kind of reaction we've read–until now. Finally those living in Westchester are coming to terms with the fact that their county's economy is about to take a HUGE hit–because Con Ed can't fabricate natural gas out of thin air to meet the increasing demand. Our message to Westchester: Welcome to the economic malaise we've experienced in the Southern Tier under Cuomo for the last decade. Now it's your turn to live under the results of his policies. We hope you enjoy it.