



**“Witness Testimony” at
Assembly Energy Committee “Hearing”
Thursday, August 17, 2006
Ferndale, New York
<http://stopnyri.com> - info@stopnyri.com**

Good evening. I am here tonight representing the over 850 members of StopNYRI.com.

First, let me take a brief moment to thank Chairman Tonko and the State Assembly for establishing this forum and for inviting our group to speak here tonight, and for your combined stamina. We appreciate that you and the majority of our other elected officials have used strong words in criticizing the proposed NYRI project for the terrible harm that it would inflict on a vast and beautiful part of New York State.

Let me paint a quick picture of what StopNYRI.com are trying to do. We were formed by a team of editors, computer programmers, lawyers and educators as a way of disseminating simple actions that our members can take to express their opposition and to make a difference. Our mission is to make it possible for people who oppose this project to easily get involved. Let's face it, with great respect for the New York Public Service Commission and the effort they have made to educate the public, the process is confusing. So confusing, in fact that the folks at NYRI still haven't managed to fill out the application properly.

StopNYRI.com is registered as a formal party in the Article VII proceedings. We've reached over 850 people with our email initiative as I mentioned earlier, and in a region that is still largely untouched by the Internet, we find this to be a profound statement of the size and intensity of public opposition.

Now, we are organic farmers whose certification will be withdrawn, we are realtors whose market will disappear, we are homemakers whose homes will be destroyed, we are mothers and fathers whose children will be placed in physical danger, and we are students who are learning our first lesson of the corrosive effects of greed and energy mismanagement.

But you know all of this, Mr. Chairman. The PSC knows this. They themselves have referred to the size of the opposition as “extraordinary” and “unusual.” All of the citizens' groups here represented also know this. And NYRI knows this. They are almost universally abhorred in this region. The arguments against their

proposal are strong, are varied, are complex and sophisticated and are all becoming a matter of the public record through the Article VII proceedings. So I won't waste any more time on that.

The fact is, we will convince the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to look beyond the mercantile zeal that underwrites their current marching orders and recognize that this proposal is bad for the nation; we will convince the Administrative Law Judges at the PSC of the essentially flawed nature of not just the application but the entire plan; we will inspire you, members of the state legislature, to enact *potent* legislation to discourage this type of prospecting (including but hopefully not limited to the current proposal for legislation that would require the Article VII applicants to provide intervener funding); or we will all fail, and the plan will go through and all that will remain of these hearings and all of this talk will be a memory of who was in office when the towers went up.

So, with great respect and even reverence for the offices that you hold, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that we and the full breadth of our membership stand at the ready to support any meaningful legislation enacted in opposition of the NYRI proposal and project. ***We have been waiting with great hope for some positive and definite action to compliment your stated opposition.*** We will continue to wait and to watch. We will be on call from now until well after November, when you are back in session and have stood the test of the primary elections. We will reward any substantive legislation with our full and hearty support.

Also, this is a public hearing, and yet the people from NYRI, notorious already for their habitual skewing of the facts, are not being held accountable for what they say. ***So we ask for a venue of this type at which all of those present are held accountable for what they say by being asked to provide sworn testimony.*** Tonight, the people from NYRI are held accountable for nothing except what makes its way into the press.

So again, thank you for the opportunity to be here. Our interests, in vast majority throughout the region, involve the rejection of NYRI and the myopia that their proposal represents. We are a citizens' group and so have no greater power than to inspire our elected officials to wield their power in support of our interests.

And we are grateful to the state assembly for allowing us the opportunity to inspire you to action.