

Public Hearing for Easton Compressor Station

What's the proposal? The current Easton Compressor Station is located on **Klein Road in Forks Township**, Northampton County, PA. It is owned by Columbia Gas Company, a subsidiary of NiSource. A compressor station is a facility that pressurizes natural gas to transport it through pipelines. The current 2,250 horsepower facility began operation in 1971 and currently employs seven people. According to Columbia's application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), they plan to remove the existing **2,250 horsepower facility and replace it with a 19,500 horsepower facility, more than eight times its current capacity.** Columbia states the Easton compressor Station is expected to go online in April 2015.



This is a photo of the similar 21,000 horsepower Williams Central Station in Susquehanna County under construction.

What are the issues? If given an air permit, the station would emit harmful air pollutants that can impact public health and regional air quality. It would have a permit to emit the following:

- **70.7 tons per year of nitrous oxide (NOx)**
- **163.5 tons per year of carbon monoxide (CO)**
- **15.1 tons per year of particulate matter (PM)**
- **9.70 tons per year of volatile organic compounds (VOC)**
- **1.89 tons per year of hazardous air pollutants (HAP)**
- **99,215 tons per year of greenhouse gases (CO₂e)**
- **0.60 tons per year of sulfur dioxide (SO₂)**

*To put these pollutants in perspective, it is illegal to idle a **diesel school bus** for more than 15 minutes in Pennsylvania because of air pollution. If permitted, Easton Compressor Station has the potential to emit the equivalent to **168 constantly idling diesel school buses worth of NOx, 202 buses worth of VOCs, 534 buses worth of particulate matter, and 660 buses worth of carbon monoxide.** This is of particular concern because the Easton compressor station is located in a non-attainment area for both particulate matter and ground-level ozone. The amount of greenhouse gasses would be equivalent to putting approximately 19,000 cars on the road.*

Department of Environmental Protection Hearing

Monday, November 10th, 2014

5 PM Ask Your Questions to get answers

6 PM Make Your Public Comments!

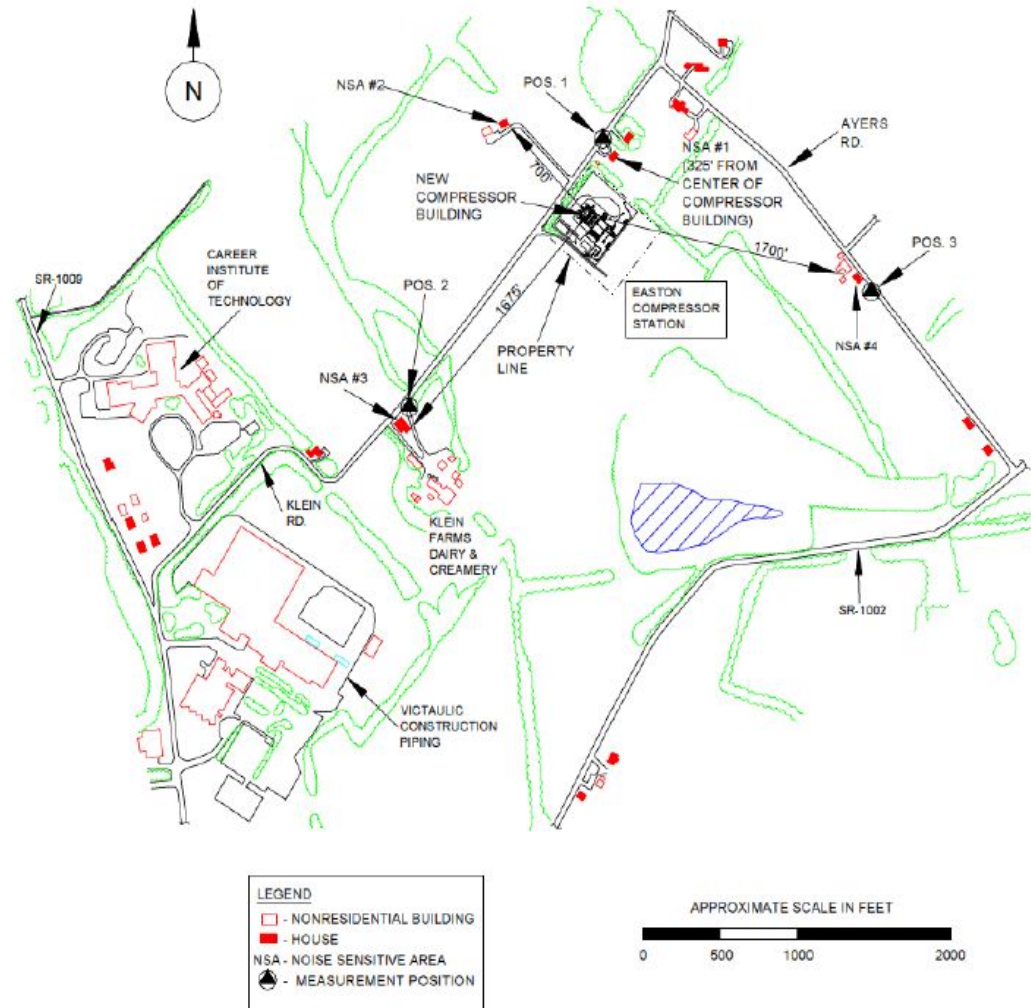
Easton Area Middle School – 1010 Echo Trail, Easton, PA

Why does Columbia want a new compressor?

The stated need for the upgrade is to send Marcellus Shale gas from hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” to regional markets. The two shale drillers listed as customers in the permit application are Cabot Oil & Gas and Southwestern Energy. Cabot Oil & Gas has a 20-year deal to deliver liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Japan. The agreement pledges 350,000 million British thermal units of gas per day, worth slightly over \$1.5 million at existing prices. Columbia’s pipeline provides the shortest distance to the recently approved Cove Point LNG export terminal, and other proposed LNG export terminals in Boston and New York that are accessible to gas in Columbia’s Pipelines.

What are the hazards of air pollutants? These emissions can cause and worsen respiratory illnesses as well as form low-level ozone, or smog. Hazardous Air Pollutants and Volatile Organic Compounds from compressor stations include benzene, toluene, and formaldehyde, which can cause eye, nose and throat irritation, headaches, loss of coordination, and nausea. The proximity of this facility to homes, schools, and senior care centers in the area presents acute risk to children’s developing lungs and seniors with respiratory or pulmonary illness. Worsened air quality and further industrialization can also negatively impact property values.

Have Questions? Contact:



DEP Public Meeting And Hearing

November 10th, 5 PM Easton Area Middle School, 1010 Echo Trail, Easton, PA

