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ASK LATER



STATEN ISLAND

Planned Billion-Dollar Natural Gas Pipeline Draws Criticism From Activists

By

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It's not uncommon to spy a seal basking in the sun along Staten Island's South Shore.

That's partially because Raritan Bay now attracts a greater diversity of marine life, which is a result of the Clean Water Act and tougher enforcement of pollution laws.

But residents on Staten Island's South Shore fear the hard-won improvements will be at risk if a proposed 23.5 mile underground natural gas pipeline is approved.

It would stretch from Old Bridge, New Jersey, past Staten Island and Brooklyn, and connect to an existing pipeline four miles off the Rockaways.

It would allow the Transco pipeline network, the country's largest interstate gas system, to provide much more natural gas to the city and Long Island.

Opponents fear dredging for the pipeline would stir up heavy metals and other toxins that have long been buried in the sediment of Raritan Bay and New York Harbor. They say that will affect the health of marine life, and harm people living along the shore.

"The only question about the pollution here is how extensive it's going to be; how bad it's going to be," said Art Siegel, a resident historian.

If that wasn't enough to induce outrage locals who value the area's environment, the pipeline is also expected to carry gas from Pennsylvania extracted through fracking, a controversial process banned in New York because of pollution concerns.

"Knowing the science that we know on climate change, it's really shocking that we're even considering a frack gas pipeline in New York City," said Lee Ziesche, an organizer at St. Energy Project.

Oklahoma-based Williams Company, which owns Transco, says demand for natural gas is growing, and that the pipeline would allow more homes and office buildings here to stop using heating oil, which causes more environmental harm.

Williams also says its trenching method to lay the pipeline would disturb only tiny amounts of sediments, material, it says would remain close to the harbor's bottom.

The pipeline can be built only if the state's Department of Environmental Conservation gives its approval.

The agency is holding two public hearings on the billion dollar project next week: Tuesday afternoon in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and Wednesday in Rockaway.

If approved, Williams hopes to begin work in 2020.

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MTA chair defends upcoming fare and toll hikes

The cost of a single ride will increase to \$2.90 on August 20.

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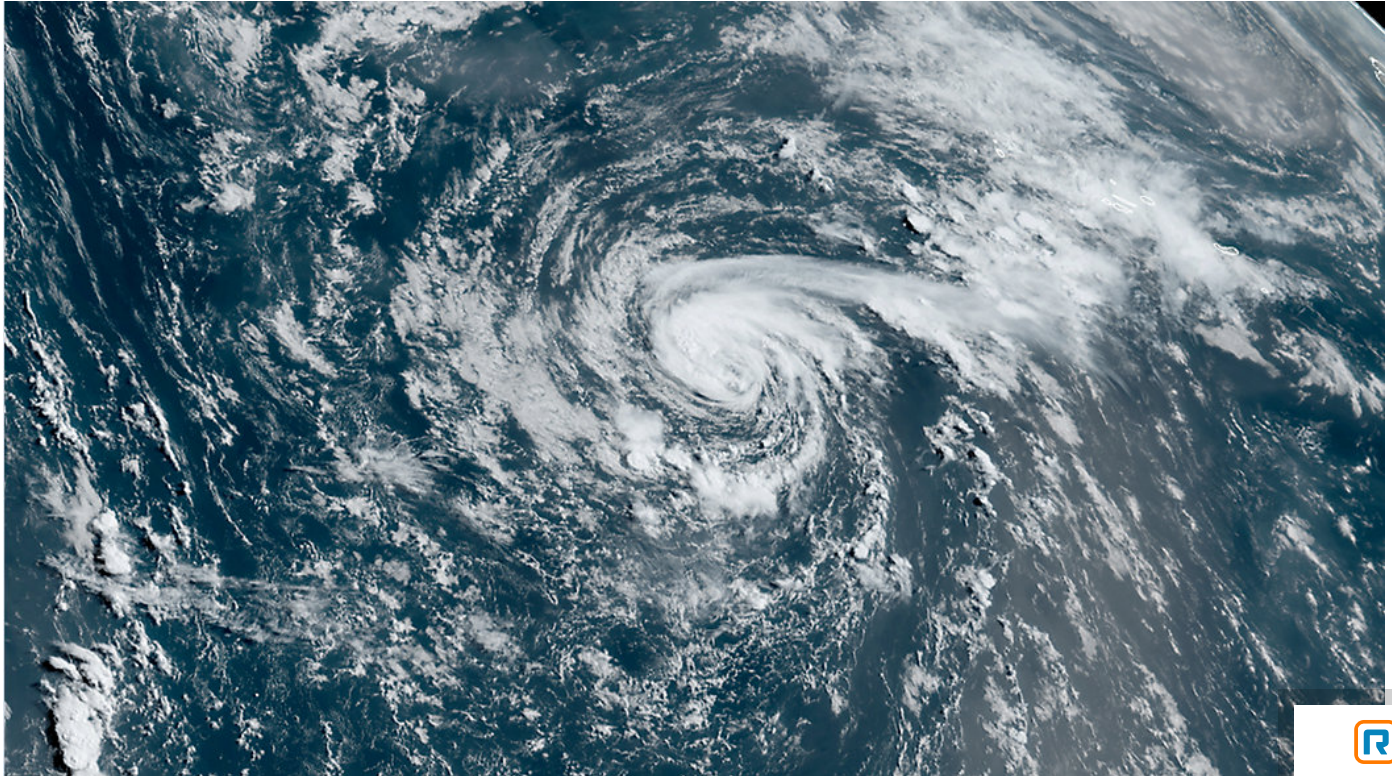
MTA hikes fares, tolls, and cheering on inclusive theater

Shannan Ferry takes a look at what's in the papers on this Thursday, July 20, 2023.

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Thursday will bring hazy sunshine, temperatures in the mid-80s and storm-free weather.

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New York City agrees to pay \$13 million to 2020 racial injustice protesters in historic class action

The civil rights lawsuit was brought on behalf of 1,300 people who were arrested or beaten by police during racial injustice demonstrations in 2020.

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