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National Grid holds first public meeting on gas supply options



Commercial natural gas meter in Riverhead for National Grid. Credit: Newsday/Mark Harrington

By Mark Harrington

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Green-energy advocates on Monday crowded a public forum outlining options for the region's future natural gas needs, urging National Grid and the state to opt for conservation and renewable sources instead of costly new measures to bolster supply.

The meeting at the Hicksville Community Center was the first of six the company agreed to hold as part of a settlement with the state last year after its controversial moratorium on new gas hookups led Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo to threaten to revoke the British-based company's franchise to operate in the state. National Grid implemented the moratorium after the state twice rejected partner Williams Co.'s environmental permits for a 23.5-mile undersea gas pipeline called the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project to increase local supply by 14 percent.

Protesters chanting, "The people have spoken – renewables now," dominated the public speaking portion of the event, questioning assertions in National Grid's [report](#) about the need for more natural gas, and demanding that the company follow mandates in new state climate law.



"Bringing in more fracked, radioactive gas is not the answer," said Ed Power of the Rockaways.

National Grid employees manned stations at the community center, each outlining an option the company said will

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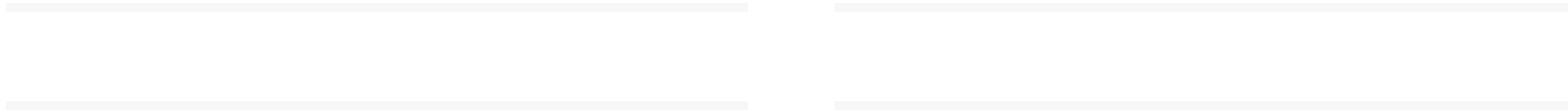
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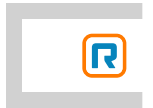
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