

**Vigil in Northfield, MA, August 20, 2015**  
**Hattie Nestel at-large WILPF member**

As we gathered from far and wide to hold our fifth vigil on Gulf Road at the site of the proposed Kinder-Morgan pipeline compression station in Northfield, MA, it was another cloudy day that cleared to a beautiful blue sky with a wonderful fresh breeze.

We continue to have new people joining with us, including Rene and Susan Theberge from Amherst and Heather and Jaime Reloj with their son from Deerfield. I think we had about 27 vigilers today from at least ten towns and 3 or 4 from other states. Lots of good conversations and big waves, lights blinking and horns blowing. Northfield police Captain Robert Leighton provided the orange cones for our safety.

These vigils are so important as a very public showing of our opposition to this compressor station as we stand along the road. It lets people know there IS organizing going on and gives them heart and encouragement to join. Now, we have started asking those attending how many might be interested in taking a non-violent civil disobedience training and a bit more than 2/3rds of those attending the vigils have checked "YES."

In addition, we were grateful to Sam Richardson of Northfield, who is largely responsible for creating the National Scenic Trails and the cabin that is available for overnight stays, for sharing with us the history of the National Scenic Trail- one of only 11 in the United States. This one goes from the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border to Long Island Sound and is hiked by 10,000 hikers a year!

Sam and his wife Barbara have created many hiking and cross-country trails in the area in which the proposed pipeline and proposed compressor station would be built.

We also enjoyed some original pipeline songs from Tom Neilson accompanied on the harmonica by Jonathan Mark.