

June 24, 2015

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of April 30, 2015, in which you express your concern regarding plans to grant a certificate to build a new natural gas pipeline about one-quarter mile from the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC) Unit 2 and Unit 3 reactors. In addition to asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to grant a rehearing on the matter, you also stated that NRC's responses to your November 2014 correspondence to the agency and to questions posed to the Commission during a House Appropriations Committee hearing on March 24, 2015, were insufficient.

I want to specifically respond to your concerns related to the NRC. The NRC's role in evaluating the pipeline project is to review the licensee's safety evaluation and supporting hazard analysis to confirm that the pipeline would not impact the safe operations of IPEC Units 2 and 3.

I have reviewed the information provided to you in response to your November 2014 letter and in my oral responses to your questions during the referenced House Appropriations Committee hearing. I remain confident in the NRC staff's findings from its independent confirmatory analysis and inspection of the proposed pipeline route that the pipeline will not pose an increased risk to radiological safety at the plant. Using proven methodologies and modeling software, the staff's work considered "worst case" scenarios, yet still concluded that a potential rupture of the proposed pipeline would pose no threat to the safe operation or the safe shutdown of the plant.

If you need any additional information, please contact me or Mr. Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

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Stephen G. Burns

cc: N. Bay