



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 24, 2015

CHAIRMAN

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Stephen G. Burns", is written over a circular blue ink stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephen G. Burns

cc: N. Bay

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
RANKING MEMBER



SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS,
RANKING MEMBER

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Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
17th District, New York

April 30, 2015

Cheryl A. LaFleur, Chairwoman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Allison M. Macfarlane, Chairwoman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairwomen LaFleur and Macfarlane:

With the requests for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rehearing pending, I am writing to reiterate serious concerns regarding the Spectra Energy Partners (Spectra) Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) Expansion project and its proximity to Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC). Significant health, safety, and environmental issues have not been sufficiently addressed, and therefore I again ask that FERC grant the request for rehearing. In the rehearing, FERC must consider an independent, transparent, and comprehensive assessment of the risk of a pipeline accident in the vicinity of IPEC.

The responses from FERC to my October 6, 2014 letter and from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to my November 17, 2014 letter, as well as responses to my questions to NRC at a House Appropriations Committee hearing on March 24, 2015, were insufficient. Critical issues still need to be addressed.

I again call on you to reconsider your decision on the AIM project and to approve the request for rehearing that I and so many others have submitted.

Sincerely,

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3218

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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