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SANDRA R. GALEF
Assemblywoman 95th District

February 26, 2015

Honorable Cheryl A. LeFleur
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Honorable Stephen G. Burns
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Project Docket Number **CP14-96-000**

Dear Chairmen LeFleur & Burns,

After spending time communicating with the NRC about the conclusion of the safety hazard analysis they conducted regarding the siting of the AIM pipeline in close proximity to the Indian Point Energy Center, I have been most disappointed. The fact that we have a major nuclear power plant with already contentious debate about its safety within 50 miles of New York City, that is now having its safety potentially compromised further with this high volume high pressure 42" pipeline is disturbing at best.

I do not understand why the approval process is being expedited. I have received information that the basis for a very important assumption in the safety hazard analysis has not been properly validated. Why is this issue not being addressed by NRC or FERC? I have brought this concern to the attention of the NRC with support from nuclear and gas line experts, and yet, no action has been taken, as far as I am aware, to go back and reexamine that 3 minutes is a valid and conclusive amount of time in which gas flow to the area could be stopped.

This is the main focus of my concern. I would like to know what evidence exists that for gas line ruptures that have occurred elsewhere, in fact gas flow has been shut down in 3 minutes. In the disasters that have been publicized, this has not been the case. The gas expert I have been speaking with has made it clear that Houston, Texas would not necessarily recognize a pressure drop in Buchanan, New York quickly enough, nor based on the distance of the valves, would the system be able to work fast enough to make a shutdown happen that quickly.

Again, with such critical infrastructure at this juncture in this small town, just a stone's throw from the biggest city in the U.S., I am having a difficult time understanding why this concern does not merit further questioning before pushing through the siting of this pipeline within 500 feet of Indian Point's fuel oil. I am attaching a recent press release I sent out highlighting my concerns, as well as a petition that was filed with the NRC by nuclear expert Paul Blanch. While I specifically name NRC for not having validated the 3 minute estimate, I believe FERC is just as responsible for expediting the siting process without assuring the public that proper analysis has taken place.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sandra R. Galef
New York State Assembly
95th District
Representing the following municipalities in a 15 mile
radius of Indian Point: Cortlandt, Buchanan, Croton,

Peekskill, Nelsonville, Cold Spring, Ossining, Briarcliff,
Philipstown

Att.

Cc: U.S. Senator Charles Schumer
U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Congresswoman Nita Lowey
Commissioner Joseph Maartens, NYS DEC
NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman
Legislator Catherine Borgia, Westchester County
Legislator John Testa, Westchester County
Supervisor Linda Puglisi, Town of Cortlandt
Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker, Village of Buchanan