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September 16, 2016

Dr. Ernest Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding Spectra Energy's Algonquin Incremental Market Expansion Project (AIM Project), its proximity to Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval process for this project which runs through a portion of my Congressional District.

The AIM Project is replacing an existing 26-inch natural gas pipeline with a 42-inch pipeline from northern Rockland County under the Hudson River and through northern Westchester County, as well as expanding compressor stations in Stony Point and Southeast. FERC approved this project and construction is well under way, despite the many letters it received throughout the approval process from me and other elected officials at all levels of government. FERC has repeatedly dismissed our serious concerns about public health and safety and allowed the project to proceed. Recent developments have prompted me to write to you.

Many of my constituents have closely followed the AIM project since it was first proposed, and frequently check the online docket to review filings on this and related projects, including the Atlantic Bridge Project and the Access Northeast Project. Media outlets have reported that Natural Resources Group LLC (NRG), a contractor hired by FERC to provide an independent environmental assessment of Spectra Energy's Atlantic Bridge Project, did not disclose conflicts of interest as required by FERC policy. Specifically, NRG was working directly for Spectra Energy on another pipeline, PennEast, and has been hired by Spectra Energy to work on at least five other projects since. FERC's disregard of its own disclosure requirements is extremely alarming, and begs the question, what other requirements are being ignored?

In addition to these serious concerns about the integrity of Spectra Energy's relationship with NRG, Spectra Energy has allowed trucks to idle at worksites near residential neighborhoods for extended periods of time, adding to the construction-related noise and environmental pollution that may not have been considered during FERC's environmental review process. Spectra Energy also encountered complications during its recent horizontal directional drilling under the Hudson River. A pipe jammed and had to be hammered loose, so workers could pull the pipe back out, fix it, and then try to reinsert it. According to Spectra

Energy's notices left at homes in the area on August 30, this process was all done with FERC approval and would only require a few additional days of work, including intermittent construction noises. However, Spectra Energy provided an updated notice on September 9, stating that the process is not yet completed. As of today, September 16, residents report that this work is still going on.

Most concerning is Spectra Energy's "lack of consultation" with FERC after Spectra Energy experienced a break in the drill stem while trying to pullback the drill. FERC issued a "Serious Violation" on September 9, 2016, because Spectra Energy excavated wetlands without FERC approval and in direct contradiction to the FERC Compliance Monitor's instructions that further evaluation was required before any excavation could begin. In fact, Spectra Energy waited until the Compliance Monitor left the premises to begin excavating, and according to FERC, the unauthorized excavation did not even access the drill stem. Furthermore, all of this occurred in the immediate vicinity of the two nuclear power plants at IPEC without any additional safety or environmental assessments.

While energy production is critical, the safety and security of our community is vital. I request your assistance to make sure Spectra Energy complies with FERC requirements and takes all possible safety measures. Thank you for attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress

