



## **STOP THE ALGONQUIN PIPELINE EXPANSION!**

### **REJECT SPECTRA ENERGY'S PROPOSED AIM GAS PIPELINE AND COMPRESSOR STATION EXPANSION PROJECT**

Spectra Energy's proposed Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) gas pipeline expansion project is under review by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Docket # CP14-96. The AIM expansion includes addition of a 42" diameter, high pressure pipeline to the three already existing pipelines that cross under the Hudson River from Rockland County, New York and enter Westchester County. The new pipeline would intersect underground with proposed high voltage power lines in close proximity to the Indian Point nuclear power plant's 40 years of spent nuclear fuel rods and the Ramapo and Stamford fault lines. Its route continues through Westchester and Putnam Counties, NY and into Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The AIM project also includes expanded gas compressor stations in Stony Point and Southeast, NY, Oxford, Cromwell and Chaplin, CT, and Burrillville, RI. Expansion and construction of gas infrastructure unwisely direct taxpayer dollars to increased production and use of polluting fossil fuels when both public funds and private investment should be focused on energy efficiency, conservation, and non-polluting [renewable energy resources](#).

#### **TO: THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION, INVOLVED AGENCIES and ELECTED OFFICIALS**

***WE OPPOSE*** the expansion of the Algonquin pipeline and compressor stations for numerous reasons including but not limited to:

-It poses an unacceptable risk to public health and safety across the Northeast. A pipeline or compressor station explosion, rupture or other accident could cause a major region-wide catastrophe, particularly an accident occurring in close proximity to the Indian Point nuclear power facility. A full risk assessment of all infrastructure and project proposals should be included in the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) factoring in pipeline explosions and methane leaks from infrastructure.

-Natural gas pipelines and compressor stations are subject to leakage and explosions. Compressor stations emit tons of highly toxic pollutants into the air annually, significantly degrading air quality. Leakage of methane, a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, contributes to climate change. FERC should consider the climate change impacts of this proposal by adopting a carbon neutral standard for pipeline approval including life cycle impacts of methane extraction and transport upon climate change.

-Health impacts associated with compressor station emissions include nosebleeds, visual impairment, neurological and respiratory problems, leukemia, aplastic anemia, lung, liver, kidney and cardiovascular disease. Children, pregnant women, elderly and health-compromised populations are particularly vulnerable. Cumulative impacts of the entire

proposal should be assessed and a formal Health Impact Assessment should be conducted and included in the EIS.

-The Marcellus Shale, the source for new natural gas supply underlying Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and New York, is known for potentially high levels of radon. This could pose a serious risk of radon exposure from gas-fueled appliances in homes, schools and businesses including kitchen stoves, ovens, dryers, hot water heaters and boilers. Radon is considered the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers nationwide according to federal and global health agencies. Cumulative impacts of these multiple exposures must be evaluated as part of the Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

-Taxpayers bear the costs of additional emergency response actions, healthcare, damage to water supplies and other impacts. Full economic analysis must be addressed to determine the capacity of municipalities to cover these costs.

-Inadequate pipeline regulation and oversight and Spectra's history of safety issues amplifies the serious threat posed by this proposal to public health, [safety](#), water and food supplies, and the economy.

-The proposed expansion of the existing Algonquin pipeline and the compressor stations significantly exceeds the volume of natural gas committed for purchase by local distributors. FERC must identify the need for expanded pipeline and related infrastructure based on public necessity. Taxpayers should not bear the steep costs of public health, environmental and economic impacts of natural gas infrastructure for the purpose of facilitating natural gas export.

***Tell FERC to reject the AIM project and endorse the NO BUILD option!***

**Submit your comments to FERC** expressing your concerns on this project.

Go to [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov), click on Documents and Filings. Use eComment for a short statement, eFiling for a longer one. The comment should refer to Algonquin Incremental Market Project, Docket # CP14-96.

Address comments to Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary.

***Tell other [Involved Agencies](#) to deny permits on the AIM project!***

***Contact your [elected officials](#)!***

## **REFERENCES:**

Quote from Irwin Redlener, MD, Director, National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Earth Institute and Professor of Health Policy and Management, Columbia University

"I am very concerned about the proposed plan to expand the Algonquin pipeline without a thorough, objective review of the environmental impact and potential public health risks that might be posed by this project. Of particular concern is the proximity of the project to a significant seismic zone and the Indian Point nuclear plant. This combination of factors presents a real risk of major disaster with profound, long-term impact on the region. I truly hope that the time and resources will be made available to assess the safety of the project and reassure the public that every possible risk has been properly examined."

**For more information on oil and gas infrastructure, please visit [www.sape2016.org](http://www.sape2016.org)**