

June 27, 2014

To: Westchester Board of Legislators
Energy & Environment and Infrastructure Committees

Subject: Nuclear incompatible with natural gas

This is a follow-up to my presentation to your Committee last week. Since that time I have received a letter from the NRC (copy enclosed) assuring they will require Indian Point to analyze the potential risks associated with the AIM project. While this is good news, I still fear both Entergy and the NRC will withhold this information from the public under the false premise of national security.

I am not opposed to either nuclear power or the expansion of the gas transmission lines however they cannot safely co-exist within miles of one another due to the potential risk of a gas line malfunction causing major damage to the nuclear facility and the potential for large release of highly radioactive material .

Supporting my position is a copy of a risk analysis conducted for a proposed fuel enrichment facility in Eunice, New Mexico. This analysis is required by NRC regulations[1]. This proposed facility only contains low levels of radioactive material and no reactors or spent fuel and is located in a very low population zone.

The analysis looks at the risk of one 16-inch pipeline operating at 50 pounds per square inch with a maximum capacity of 500,000 cubic feet per day and located 1800 feet from the facility. The analysis determined that the risk from a gas line failure was greater than what was acceptable. Contrast this to the proposed AIM project with a new 42 inch gas line operating at 850 pounds per square inch located 1500 feet from vital structures, and a few hundred feet from oil storage tanks, with a capacity of 3,420,000 cubic feet per day. Consequences of this type of accident in Westchester County are incalculable and could well exceed the damages of the Fukushima accident. In my opinion, there is no way either Entergy or the NRC could approve this project as presently proposed but they will make every effort to find a way to justify this dangerous project.

The risk of this installation is thousands of times greater than the facility in New Mexico and located in one of the most densely populated areas in the US. The letter to me from the NRC states that it will require Entergy to assess the risk of the new gas line per the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59.

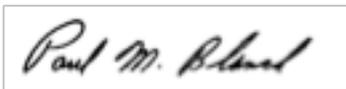
This was somewhat of a surprise to me that the NRC now admits there is a potential danger and will require a detailed evaluation by Entergy.

This NRC letter to me is not public information but I have informed the NRC that I waive any confidentiality requirement and the letter can be made public.

I have shared this letter with Fred Dacimo, VP at Entergy and my previous boss at Indian Point.

My only request of the Committee is that it assures the proper analysis is conducted and made available to its experts for review. I am willing to appear before the Committee along with representatives of the NRC, Entergy and Spectra to openly discuss this proposed project.

Sincerely.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul M. Blanch".

Paul M. Blanch

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