June 20, 2014

Electronic Mail To: Paul M. Blanch
PMB Blanch@comcast.net

SUBJECT: EMAIL DATED MAY 19, 2014 REGARDING INDIAN POINT CONCERN

Dear Mr. Blanch:

This letter is in response to the concern you brought to the attention of Lisamarie Jarriel of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on May 19, 2014, regarding the Indian Point Energy Center and the subsequent information sent on June 18, 2014. Your concerns were related to proposed modifications to the present gas transmission lines that traverse the site. Because your concerns contained possible safety issues with an NRC-regulated activity, your email with enclosed letter was forwarded to my office for review.

Title 10 to the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) requires that nuclear power plant structures, systems, and components important to safety be appropriately protected against dynamic effects resulting from events and conditions that may occur outside the nuclear power plant. These events include the effects of explosion of hazardous materials that may be associated with nearby industrial activities such as storage facilities or transportation routes such as navigable waterways and pipelines. The NRC was informed by Entergy Nuclear Operations, the licensee, that they’ve been actively engaging Spectra Energy in order to obtain a better understanding of the Algonquin Incremental Market Project and to ensure that appropriate reviews and analyses are conducted to determine whether the proposed project could introduce increased hazards near or on the Indian Point site.

If the application for a new 42-inch natural gas pipeline is approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the licensee will be required by NRC regulations to perform an updated site hazards analysis and include it in the next scheduled revision to the Updated Safety Analysis Report. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.59, “Changes, tests, and experiments,” NRC staff review and approval of the licensee’s updated site hazards analysis may be required. Regardless of whether NRC review and approval is required, the staff will continue to monitor the licensee’s activities concerning this issue.

While we appreciate the forward looking nature of your concern and proactive approach, the licensee is not currently required to submit any information or evaluation regarding the proposed modifications. In addition, there are no identified inadequacies related to our regulations. Upon such time as regulations require submission of information, the NRC will review the submission against applicable regulations.
Thank you for informing us of your concern. Individuals with concerns are an important source of information to the NRC and assist us in achieving our safety mission. We take our safety responsibilities to the public very seriously and will continue to do so within the bounds of our lawful authority. We feel that our actions in this matter have been responsive to your concern. Unless we receive additional information that suggests our conclusions should be altered, we plan no further action on this matter.

Should you have any additional questions, or if we can be of further assistance to you, please contact me at (800) 368-5642.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Dori L. Willis)

Dori L. Willis, Senior Allegations Coordinator
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation