

AMENDED

Referral No. 1021

September 16, 2014

Introduced by:

Hon. Harriet D. Cornell, Sponsor

Hon. Toney L. Earl, Co-Sponsor

Hon. Nancy Low-Hogan, Co-Sponsor

Hon. Douglas J. Jobson, Co-Sponsor

Hon. Ilan S. Schoenberger, Co-Sponsor

Hon. Philip Soskin, Co-Sponsor

Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Co-Sponsor

**RESOLUTION NO. 404 OF 2014
URGING THAT HEALTH, SAFETY AND PLANNING CONCERNS BE
ADDRESSED AND MITIGATED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ALL
OTHER REVIEW PROCESSES BEFORE PROJECT PERMISSIONS BE
GRANTED FOR SPECTRA ENERGY'S ALGONQUIN INCREMENTAL MARKET
(AIM) NATURAL GAS PIPELINE, COMPRESSOR AND METERING
STATIONS EXPANSION PROJECT**

**CORNELL/LOW-HOGAN, SCHOENBERGER, SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., WOLFE:
UNAN.**

WHEREAS, Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, (AGT) a wholly-owned subsidiary of Spectra Energy Partners which is seeking expansion of pipelines to serve customers in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, and affecting Rockland, Westchester and Putnam Counties, submitted Resource Report #9 in Docket # CP14-96-000 which does not reflect aggregate (existing, proposed and cumulative) emissions from compressor stations, metering stations, and pipelines in the entire Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) project; and

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed scientific studies and the World Health Organization link exposure between air pollution and neurological, cardiovascular, respiratory and other health problems, while peer-reviewed scientific studies specifically indicate that emissions from compressor stations and other shale gas infrastructure are also associated with negative health impacts; and

WHEREAS, the current emissions will be significantly increased by the expansion of the Southeast and Stony Point compressor stations and other gas pipeline infrastructure and operations, including but not limited to metering and regulating stations, pipelines, valves, fittings and Pipeline Inspection Gauge (PIG) operations; and

WHEREAS, the tri-state region - including Rockland, Westchester, and Putnam counties - is already considered a non-attainment zone for air quality standards according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and exceeds the limits for pollutants such as ground level ozone and particulate matter; and

WHEREAS, there is presently no advanced notification for all planned full or partial blowdowns at compressor stations, or immediately following any unplanned partial or full blowdowns in order for residents and public officials to take prompt emergency measures; and

WHEREAS, the location of the AIM pipeline: 1) is within close proximity to the Indian Point Nuclear Facility and 40 years of spent fuel rods; 2) intersects with two proposed high voltage power lines; and 3) is in close proximity to a significant seismic zone. This poses a risk of catastrophic damage with profound long-term impacts on the region; and

WHEREAS, materials and contaminants in the gas pipeline include radium precipitate, radon and its decay products, lead and polonium, many of which are known carcinogens and present a serious health risk both to local residents as well as the potentially hundreds of short-term construction-related workers in Rockland County; and

WHEREAS, the Rockland County Legislature feels duty bound to protect the health and safety of all County residents and all workers associated with the project; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Committee has met, considered and by a unanimous vote, approved this resolution; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that

- 1) before permits are issued, an independent air emissions baseline assessment be conducted in the areas directly impacted by the proposed compressor and metering and regulating stations modifications;
- 2) the pipeline be continually monitored by an independent expert acceptable to industry, local government officials, advocates and the public, funded by Spectra Energy; and
- 3) results of the continuous monitoring of air, water, land and all other environmental impacts be reported daily to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the EPA, and made available to the public in a transparent manner;

and be it further

RESOLVED, that AGT be required: 1) to install the best available mitigation technologies on all components of the existing and proposed compressor and metering stations in the AIM pipeline project, including electric compressor engines,

zero emission dehydrators, blowdown prevention, vapor recovery units, and methane capturing equipment; 2) to utilize the best practices outlined by the EPA; and 3) to install selective catalytic reduction if gas-driven engines are used instead of preferred electric engines; and be it further

RESOLVED, effective immediately, that advanced notification of all planned blowdowns (either full or partial) and notification within 30 minutes following any unplanned partial or full blowdowns of the Stony Point and Southeast compressor stations and other gas pipeline infrastructure and operations (including but not limited to metering and regulating stations, pipelines, valves, fittings, and Pipeline Inspection Gauge [PIG] operations) be given to Rockland County in order to alert all residents, emergency first responders, and municipalities within the County, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a comprehensive and transparent Health Impact Assessment (HIA), as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Academy of Sciences, be conducted by an independent entity acceptable to industry, local government officials, advocates and the public, and funded by Spectra Energy, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this comprehensive and transparent HIA cover cumulative short-term and long-term impacts as well as direct and indirect impacts of all infrastructure components and operations of the AIM project, including compressor stations emissions and blowdowns, metering and regulating stations emissions, and pipeline leakage prior to construction, during construction, during normal operations and during blowdowns and accidental release events, with a thorough analysis of all materials and contaminants in the pipeline, including radium precipitate, radon and its decay products, lead and polonium, and with a thorough analysis of the proposed Pipeline Inspection Gauge (PIG) launching staging areas and the handling, storage, cleaning, and disposal of PIGs, PIG wastewater, PIG launcher and all other associated equipment with PIG operations, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Spectra Energy fund a comprehensive, independent and transparent risk assessment of the potentially catastrophic explosion of a 42" diameter high-pressure pipeline in close proximity to Indian Point Nuclear Facility and a significant seismic zone, to be completed in accordance with CFR Federal Law 50.59 and 10 CFR 100.20 regarding changes to site, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Rockland County Legislature opposes the construction of maintenance facilities near schools, parks, houses of worship, business or residential districts or any other population centers, and be it further

RESOLVED, since New York has one of the highest standards of environmental protection, the Rockland County Legislature urges Spectra Energy to follow New York State law by undergoing a full Environmental Impact Statement to comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and thereafter minimize and mitigate any negative environmental impacts, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature be and is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and all federal and state involved agencies with the request that the health, safety and planning concerns stated in this resolution be addressed and mitigated in the environmental review and all other review processes before project permissions be granted; and to send a copy of this resolution to Hon. Barack H. Obama, President of the United States; Hon. Charles Schumer and Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senators; Hon. Nita M. Lowey, Member of the United States Congress; the President Pro Tem of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; Hon. David Carlucci, Hon. William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Senators, Hon. Kenneth P. Zebrowski, Jr., Hon. Ellen C. Jaffee, and Hon. James G. Skoufis, Members of the New York State Assembly; the President Pro Tem of the New York State Senate; the Speaker of the New York State Assembly; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the New York State Senate and Assembly and to such other persons as the Clerk, in his discretion, may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

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