

SENATOR  
ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS  
DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE LEADER



THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

August 26, 2015

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Mr. Norman C. Bay  
Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Project Docket Number CP14-96-000

Dear Chairman Bay:

I am writing to urge that all work on Spectra Energy's Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) pipeline expansion, located near the Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, NY, be halted pending the completion of a comprehensive independent safety study and transient risk analysis. I believe that the myriad of questions raised with respect to the project's potential risks to public health and safety, as well as its proximity to Indian Point, underscore the need for such a study and analysis to be completed.

Concerns regarding the accuracy of a recent study by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) have been raised by government officials on the local and state levels and by industry experts Richard Kuprewicz and Paul Blanch. A recent NRC study concluded that the pipeline expansion poses "no additional risk" to Indian Point, but an analysis performed by Mr. Kuprewicz and Mr. Blanch, commissioned by the Town of Cortland, showed that the risk assessment model used by the NRC was invalid for this pipeline configuration. Moreover, the fact that Indian Point is currently undergoing a seismic study ordered by the NRC to re-evaluate the earthquake risk at the nuclear facility - which will not be completed until June 2017 - reinforces the need to act cautiously and with all due diligence. In light of these significant factors, I believe progress on the AIM pipeline expansion should be halted until the NRC has completed its seismic analysis of Indian Point and a transient risk analysis by an independent entity is conducted.

There are 20 million people who live and work within a 50 mile radius of Indian Point and we must ensure all precautions are taken before moving forward with a pipeline expansion in such close proximity to a nuclear facility. An independent study and analysis must be conducted before moving forward with the AIM expansion to safeguard the health and security of my constituents and all residents of the region. I urge you to listen to the concerns of Hudson Valley residents and their elected representatives, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Stewart-Cousins".

Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
New York State Senate, 35th District  
Senate Democratic Leader