

January 31, 2014

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Att: Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary

RE: Spectra AIM Project PF 13-16-000

***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.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion

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