

Dr. Irwin Redlener, Director of the National Center of Disaster Preparedness and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University said,

“With the recent release of their risk analysis and letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission calling for urgent action, New York State agencies confirmed the catastrophic risks posed to millions of lives by the co-location of the high pressure pipelines at the aging Indian Point nuclear plant.

We strongly agree that close proximity of the pipelines to critical safety infrastructure and to highly radioactive nuclear fuel stored on site is a persistent and significant threat. This is particularly alarming as we have seen an increase in pipeline failure rates, especially in newly constructed pipelines.

To make matters worse, decommissioning and decontamination work anticipated with the closure of the plant in a few years will certainly involve heavy excavation which may well further jeopardize pipeline integrity. From a public health point of view, the flow of gas at Indian Point presents an enormous risk to communities and families throughout the region. Shutting down this gas flow should happen immediately in order to avert the possibility of a catastrophic explosion that would have widespread, deadly consequences in our region.”