

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS,
RANKING MEMBER



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November 17, 2014

Allison M. Macfarlane, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

I am writing in support of the requests of public officials and local residents in Westchester and Rockland counties that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) require that Entergy conduct an independent, transparent, and comprehensive assessment of the risk of a pipeline accident in the vicinity of Entergy's Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC).

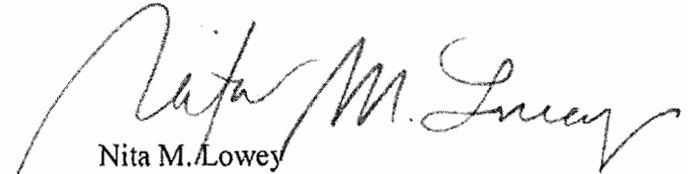
Spectra Energy Partners has proposed the Algonquin Incremental Market expansion project, which seeks to replace the currently existing 26-inch natural gas pipeline with a 42-inch pipeline. If approved, this expansion would nearly double the amount of natural gas being pumped in the vicinity of IPEC. Municipal governments and constituents in the two counties that I represent have raised serious concerns about the project and its potential risk to IPEC and have subsequently called for a comprehensive, independent, and transparent risk assessment of the project.

Unfortunately, Entergy only submitted a preliminary hazards analysis of the pipelines impacts on IPEC for inclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) instead of a comprehensive risk assessment, thus preventing my constituents from being able to fully review and submit public comments on critical information regarding the potential risk of a pipeline accident near IPEC. Furthermore, some of my constituents have concerns that the preliminary hazard analysis contained false and inaccurate statements.

In light of this incomplete analysis, I urge the NRC to require that Entergy issue a comprehensive risk assessment that utilizes a structured methodology and involves representatives from Westchester and Rockland Counties, as well as Entergy and Spectra, to promote cooperation and protect interests. Additionally, this assessment should evaluate the impact of increased amounts of natural gas through the existing and proposed pipelines, including the recently announced expansion projects, the Atlantic Bridge Project and the Access Northeast Project.

I understand the growing need for energy, however, my concern is that potential health and safety impacts are not being fully considered. I look forward to working with you to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress