Dear Mr. Blanch:

I am writing in response to your October 25, 2016, email to Brian Haagensen, in which you requested that the NRC should immediately look into the potential safety impacts that could result from changes in the operating conditions of the existing gas pipelines at Indian Point. Specifically, on October 18, 2016, Spectra submitted a request to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to allow the Algonquin gas transmission pipeline (AIM Project) be placed in service using the existing Hudson River pipeline crossings (two 24" and one 30" diameter lines). You've expressed concern that this may present a safety concern at Indian Point.

In addition, in an October 21, 2016, email to Glenn Dentel, you raised concerns about the adequacy of previous NRC assessments regarding the gas pipelines.

The current proposal by Spectra does not change the NRC's assessment; in that, a rupture of the pipelines at either an aboveground or underground location would not prevent the safe shutdown of either IPEC unit. We recognize that your views on the adequacy of previous analyses and evaluations differ from the views of the NRC; however, no new information has been provided to the NRC that would change our overall assessment of safety at IPEC, nor require implementation of other NRC processes.

Sincerely,

Gene DiPaolo Chief (Acting) Division of Reactor Projects, Branch II U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region I

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