



URGENT ACTION ALERT

CALL GOVERNOR CUOMO NOW: [518-474-8390](tel:518-474-8390)

Tell Governor Cuomo: Gas pipelines and power plants do not belong at or near the Indian Point nuclear plant site. Closing Indian Point does not solve the radioactive threat to 20 million New Yorkers who live and work within 50 miles of the plant. A gas pipeline explosion adjacent to 45 years of highly radioactive nuclear waste permanently stored on site could make this region uninhabitable for millennia. We strongly urge you to exercise the power of your office to ensure that independent pipeline safety, nuclear and disaster preparedness experts are fully engaged in the plant's decommissioning plans and that appropriate steps are taken to halt the unprecedented location of gas infrastructure this close to the Indian Point facility.

GIANT HIGH PRESSURE GAS PIPELINES AT INDIAN POINT.... WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

New York State made a huge mistake by issuing the permits for the AIM and Atlantic Bridge pipelines. Governor Cuomo must listen to independent safety experts' warnings about the permanent disastrous risks to 20 million New Yorkers and the U.S. economy posed by the giant Spectra AIM gas pipeline, the first phase of the impermissibly segmented Algonquin pipeline expansion, which was constructed *only 105 feet* from critical safety infrastructure at the Indian Point nuclear plant in northern Westchester located next to two major earthquake fault lines. Even with the closure of Indian Point, a multi-year decommissioning process, the potential explosion of high pressure gas transmission pipelines intensifies the clear and present dangers of the more than 45 years of vulnerable and highly radioactive spent fuel permanently stored there. As if that dangerous scenario were not reckless enough, proposals for the construction of a gas power plant at that location have been reported which would escalate the risks and exacerbate hazardous air pollution already prevalent in the region.



More background.

Despite repeated warnings from numerous leading national pipeline, nuclear and disaster preparedness experts, Spectra Energy received approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to expand their Algonquin pipeline based on a flawed analysis by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The first phase of that expansion – the 42-inch diameter, high pressure Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) gas pipeline was completed and became operational in January 2017. It is sited adjacent to critical safety infrastructure at the deteriorating Indian Point nuclear plant. The experts repeatedly warned that a pipeline rupture at Indian Point could result in a nuclear disaster worse than Fukushima threatening more than 20 million people who live in the New York tri-state area. Indian Point's closure does not resolve the disastrous risks to millions of New Yorkers posed by a pipeline rupture in very close proximity to years of highly radioactive nuclear waste permanently stored on site. The potential explosion from a pipeline rupture at that location could encompass the entire Indian Point site, according to independent experts. Moreover, pipelines and their infrastructure pollute our air, water and soil, are commonly subject to leaks, fires, and explosions and are marked by rising failure rates especially in newly installed pipelines according to the Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) data. There were 143 accidents in gas transmission lines in 2015 alone. Pipelines are also vulnerable terrorist targets.

Spectra impermissibly segmented its massive Algonquin pipeline expansion into three separate projects: Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM), Atlantic Bridge and Access Northeast to avoid a full evaluation of the cumulative impacts. Spectra's Atlantic Bridge project was prematurely approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and subsequently, New York State issued a water quality permit for the project on May 1st, which would enable construction to go forward. NYS should never have granted permits for the AIM and Atlantic Bridge pipeline projects, which are linked to significant risk of nuclear disaster, pollute our air and waterways and accelerate harm to our health and climate. Any proposal for a gas power plant at or near the site should be rejected.

After great public pressure, in February 2016, Governor Cuomo directed state agencies to conduct a risk assessment of the co-location of the AIM pipeline and Indian Point; however, no further information about the assessment, its progress or findings have been forthcoming despite numerous FOIA requests. It is critical to have independent pipeline safety, nuclear and disaster preparedness experts engaged in a comprehensive assessment included in the plant's decommissioning plans in order to fully address cumulative hazards and risks. The cooling pools for the highly radioactive nuclear waste and the dry cask storage are vulnerable. A pipeline rupture will generate incredibly high methane gas release rates with extremely high heat fluxes that melt steel and vaporize aluminum at considerable distances. A fire in the densely packed spent fuel pools could release more radioactivity than a reactor meltdown, rendering thousands of square miles uninhabitable. The deeply flawed analysis by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) used incorrect data, false assumptions and prohibited modeling. The NRC staff that conducted the analysis lacked pipeline expertise and failed to consider the risks associated with new pipeline installations, their serious deficiencies and problems during their construction phase observed by PHMSA and highlighted in their data regarding the alarming rise in pipeline failures especially in newly installed pipelines.

Governor Cuomo banned fracking in New York State to protect our water resources and public health yet, the massive Algonquin pipeline expansions are sited within sensitive watersheds including the New York City watershed, the drinking water supply for more than eight million New Yorkers in the metropolitan area. He recently stated that New York “must double down by investing in the fight against dirty fossil fuels and fracked gas from neighboring states” yet, New York continues to grant permits for dangerous, polluting and climate exacerbating fossil fuel pipelines and power plants in our communities polluting our air and water supplies and harming our health and climate. New York must stop approving fracked gas pipelines and other fossil fuel infrastructure like Spectra Energy's massive Algonquin pipeline expansion (AIM, Atlantic Bridge and Access Northeast) and instead fast track to 100% renewable energy.