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New York State Department of Conservation Public Hearing *Comments from Town of Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi* January 22, 2015

Thank you for holding this important hearing.

I am Linda Puglisi, Town Supervisor of the Town of Cortlandt, which is located in the northwest section of Westchester County. Our town of approximately 40,000 people and 40 square miles is directly across from Stony Point and also has a westerly border along the Hudson River.

I am here tonight representing our Town Board and community to oppose the expansion and rerouting of the Spectra/Algonquin AIM gas line project for the following reasons:

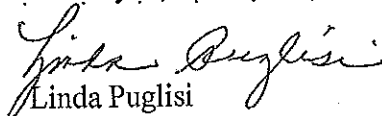
1. It would go too close to Indian Point, two nuclear plants owned by Entergy, located in the Village of Buchanan and in the Town of Cortlandt.
2. This expansion from a 26" pipe to a 42" pipe with a 25% pressure increase would greatly impact the water quality of the Hudson River, which the DEC and many other agencies, organizations and individuals have been fighting to protect over the past several decades.
3. This large expansion would also impact Haverstraw Bay, a major fish hatching area in our river's region. This was a main argument that the DEC, the Town of Cortlandt and the Village of Croton-on-Hudson used in opposing and was successful in stopping to cross the river – the millennium pipeline a decade ago. The same argument is current today with this proposed AIM project.
4. Many freshwater wetlands, stream disturbance and potential aquifers would be harmed by this proposed expansion.
5. When the original smaller Algonquin gas line was built many decades ago there were very few environmental protection laws. We have all collectively worked very hard for decades to pass legislation to protect our air, water bodies, the Hudson River, wetlands and our land. This project would destroy years of work of protecting our natural habitats, the river, bio-diversity and the ecology.

It must be stopped and we need the help of the NYS DEC to help us with yet another challenge in our community, as we did a decade ago with another large, impactful gas line proposal, the millennium pipeline.

6. The origins of this gas line are in Pennsylvania using fracked gas. Our Governor has just declared no fracked gas in New York State and we wholeheartedly agree with that decision. Fracked gas will now and in years to come be detrimental to our environment.
7. Can you believe that the rerouting of this gas line would go only 500 feet from an elementary school with hundreds of our precious children in attendance? It is outrageous. There have been known explosions on similar gas lines throughout the country, especially those using fracked gas. We need the assistance of the DEC to help us stop this large expanded proposed project.
8. Thousands of homeowner's properties would be affected during and after the construction of this gas line. Also, some of our local businesses would be jeopardized as staging areas. This is also not acceptable.
9. We have partnered with our Village of Buchanan officials and Village residents, our Hendrick Hudson School District and our Cortlandt Community to oppose this large expansion crossing the Hudson River, proposed to go through our Town, Village and beyond. Also, the Westchester County Board of Legislators has many concerns about the impact to one of their large park preserves in our area, called Blue Mountain Reserve.

In Conclusion, we request and ask you to help all of us to oppose and stop the AIM/Spectra/Algonquin gas line expansion. Please tell FERC to say NO to this harmful project.

Thank you,


Linda Puglisi
Supervisor
Town of Cortlandt

(attachments)

LP/nk