



TOWN OF CORTLANDT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR
TOWN HALL
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LINDA D. PUGLISI
Town Supervisor

Town Board Members
RICHARD H. BECKER
DEBRA A. COSTELLO
FRANCIS X. FARRELL
SETH M. FREACH

PRESS NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Linda D. Puglisi, Town of Cortlandt
(914) 734-1002, Fax (914) 734-1003
For Immediate Release
May 25, 2016

From the Town of Cortlandt Officials on their 3 Year Battle Opposing the Spectra Gasline:

The attached are press statements sent to the media and the many meetings, rallies and public hearings the Town Board and I attended in order to voice our strong concerns and opposition to the Spectra/Algonquin (A.I.M) gasline expansion over the past several years.

F.E.R.C. who supersedes the Town of Cortlandt unfortunately approved this project on March 3, 2015. We asked F.E.R.C. to reconsider, but they refused.

Linda D. Puglisi
Town Supervisor

LDP/jp

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Linda D. Puglisi, Town of Cortlandt
(914) 734-1002, Fax (914) 734-1003
For Immediate Release
March 4, 2016

Spectra Gasline Expansion Statement (March 7, 2016)

The Town Board and I along with many residents and our citizen task force have publicly opposed this Spectra A.I.M. natural gasline expansion project for the past three years. We submitted petitions, passed resolutions, wrote letters, held rallies and press conferences and attended every F.E.R.C., D.E.C., etc. public hearing on this project. At every event we stated: We are **against** the expansion and re-routing of the Algonquin/Spectra gasline for the following reasons:

1. Too close to Indian Point nuclear plants (it was re-routed closer than it was before).
2. The pressure was being increased by 25%.
3. It was being re-routed only 500 ft. from an elementary school in Buchanan.
4. We were concerned about ecological and environmental impacts to the Hudson River, the riverbed, the fish hatching area of Haverstraw Bay, the watershed.
5. We also were very concerned about airborne particles due to the construction, which by the way, our residents are experiencing today in the Verplanck area of town.
6. Our arguments about thousands of trees some 100+ years old being felled and the devastation this would do to our community was part of our opposition. This concern has also become a reality as can be viewed in our Cortlandt community.
7. Noise pollution was another issue during the lengthy construction, as well as truck traffic and many equipment staging areas. All have been part of this construction process that began in mid-2015.

For three long years we all fought this large impactful project and then F.E.R.C. which supersedes a local government approved the project going from PA, across the Hudson River, through Cortlandt and northern Westchester County up to New England, on March 3, 2015 and refused to re-open their public hearings after we all requested to be re-heard. **Very Unfortunate!**

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef has stood with us in Cortlandt and in Buchanan throughout this three year battle as have Congresswoman Nita Lowey and County Legislator Catherine Borgia and Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker and her board of trustees. Our town board and I have appreciated their efforts.

The New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo, who received our letters and petitions over the years, has **finally** come out in opposition to the Spectra/Algonquin pipeline project asking for a full assessment since it's close to Indian Point. I am pleased that he has come forward but it may be **too late** since construction approved by F.E.R.C. began eight months ago. The Town of Cortlandt spent \$300,000 trying to block it but the Federal Regulatory Commission supersedes the Town, the Village and perhaps the State.

Linda D. Puglisi
Supervisor
Town of Cortlandt



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West Point Partners/ Spectra Algonquin Gas Line Expansion Timeline of Events/Meetings attended by Supervisor Linda Puglisi and Town Board

Many of these meetings were also attended by our town committee members, town staff and consultants retained to assist us, and by our Task Force members comprised of several town residents. We worked very hard to stop this gas line expansion, unfortunately, FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) approved this Spectra gas line project on March 3, 2015 and ignored all of our strong arguments. We were able to stop the West Point Partners project ("Stop the Buzz") by purchasing the property where it was to be located, however, F.E.R.C. supersedes the local governments.

2014

Thursday, April 3rd, 2014 @ 6 P.M. – West Point Partners, Inc. Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, April 8th, 2014 @ 7 P.M. – WPP Informational Meeting with applicant
Tuesday, April 15th, 2014 @ 6 P.M. – WPP Task Force Meeting
Thursday, April 24th, 2014 @ 6 P.M. – WPP Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, April 30th, 2014 @ 2 P.M. – WPP Public Hearing @ Community Center
Wednesday, May 14th, 2014 @ 6 P.M. – WPP Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, June 18th, 2014 @ 6 P.M. – Task Force Rally Meeting at site to oppose both proposals
Thursday, July 10th, 2014 @ 6 P.M. – WPP Task Force Meeting
Thursday, July 24th, 2014 @ 3 P.M. – Spectra/Algonquin Pipeline Public Hearing (F.E.R.C.)
Wednesday, September 10th, 2014 @ 6 P.M. – WPP Task Force Meeting
Monday, September 15th, 2014 @ 6:30 P.M. – AIM/Spectra Project Comments and hearing at the Town of Cortlandt Community Center
Saturday, October 25th, 2014 @ 2 P.M. – Spectra Pipeline Rally @ Pugsley Park in Peekskill opposing the gas line.
Monday, November 3rd, 2014 @ 6 P.M. – WPP Task Force Meeting
Saturday, November 22nd, 2014 @ 10 A.M. – Con Edison Property Meeting to view Spectra gas line Plans

2015

Wednesday, January 21st, 2015 @ 6 P.M. – Spectra Meeting @ Brewster School Auditorium (A NYS DEC public hearing)
Thursday, January 22nd, 2015 @ 6 P.M. – Spectra Meeting @ Stony Point Community Center (A NYSDEC Public Hearing)
Thursday, February 19th, 2015 @ 6 P.M. – WPP/Spectra Meeting to discuss our opposition.
Monday, February 23rd, 2015 @ 3 P.M. – Con Edison Property Meeting to view Spectra gas line plans

Thursday, April 2nd, 2015 @ 3 P.M. – Spectra/FERC Press Conference opposing the gas line
Tuesday, July 7th, 2015 @ 6 P.M. – WPP/Spectra Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, August 18th, 2015 @ 11 A.M. – Press Conference in Albany opposing Spectra Pipeline
attended by the Task Force
September, 2015 Meetings in the Village of Buchanan and BV Elementary School to explain our
opposition to the gas line expansion meetings to the community.

Note: These and many other meetings were held or attended to view our opposition to these impacts in
our community.

These are the meetings/ Press conferences/ rallies and public hearings that I and the Town Board
attended as Supervisor of the Town of Cortlandt, where we protested and strongly opposed the
expansion of the Spectra/Algonquin gas pipe line for many reasons including:

- Too close to the Indian Point nuclear plant
- Disruption to residents and their property
- Felling of too many trees, including in the Blue Mountain Reservation, owned by
Westchester County.
- Too close (only 500 ft.) from an elementary school in the Village of Buchanan
- Impact to the Hudson River and the fish habitat and overall environment
- Impact to our roads and property
- Too large of an expansion: from 26” pipe to a 42” pipe and with an increase of 25% in
pressure.
- Impact to historic landmarks (i.e. a church in Verplanck)

Note: You can view many of these forums on our Town Website.

- Supervisor Linda Puglisi



LINDA D. PUGLISI
Town Supervisor

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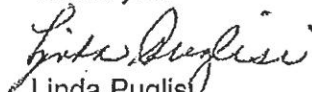
FERC Comments
September 15, 2014
Supervisor Linda Puglisi - Town of Cortlandt

I was present at your first scoping public hearing over a year ago and I'm once again present at this public hearing tonight testifying as the Town of Cortlandt Supervisor representing our community, residents and families who are strongly opposed to this large expansion of the gas line by Spectra Energy's A.I.M project. Their proposed project would be increasing a 26 inch pipeline to 42 inches starting in PA going to New England from a pressure of 674 PSI (pounds per square inch) to 850 PSI a 25% increase. Both issues are tremendous threats to our community for the following reasons:

1. This project has been planned to go only 500 feet from the Buchanan/Verplanck Elementary School. We do not want our children and grandchildren to be placed in harms way.
2. Thousands of families and their homes would be in jeopardy due to this large expansion.
3. The gas from PA is fracked gas, which poses a serious problem, in our opinion, due to the impact to the environment.
4. Spectra claims they need to meet the demand for New England gas needs, then go to Mass. Or R. Island **NOT through Cortlandt.**
5. We do not need to become the Energy Capital of the North East nor America. We already have two of the nationwide 103 nuclear plants in our community. ENOUGH! Oh by the way, this large Spectra expansion would go in close proximity to these two nuclear power plants and would cross where there are not one but TWO fault lines.
6. We have all spent many hours, held many meetings to discuss and research the threat to Cortlandt, our hamlet of Verplanck, our Village of Buchanan, to one of your school districts and to thousands of our property owners, residential and commercial that this project poses. We did not just say "NOT in our backyards", we evaluated this proposal and have collectively determined that this huge expansion and the route would be harmful to our families, our children, to the oldest historic church in the region and to our environment.

We ask you and BEG you to hear us and to reject this outrageous, impactful proposed Spectra Energy Algonquin Incremental Markets Pipeline.

Thank you.


Linda Puglisi
Supervisor
Town of Cortlandt

(Attachment – Town Board Resolution)

RESOLUTION

NO. 247-14

(TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH REGARDING
SPECTRA ENERGY ALGONQUIN INCREMENTAL MARKETS
(AIM) NATURAL GAS PIPELINE, COMPRESSOR AND
METERING STATIONS EXPANSION PROJECT)

WHEREAS, SPECTRA Energy proposed Algonquin Incremental Markets (AIM) natural gas pipeline would place an existing pipeline and related infrastructure on public and private lands over which they currently have easements and would create an additional crossing of the Hudson River from the Town of Cortlandt to Rockland County; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandt has previously engaged the services of Sive Paget and Reisel, a prominent environmental law firm to represent the interests of the Town before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Cortlandt has been granted intervenor status in the proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has previously expressed its concerns and raised issues concerning the development of this project; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has held community meetings to disseminate information to the public who will be effected by this project; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Board to be vigilant in raising issues for the Regulatory Authorities to consider and analyze as well as to work with the community in addressing their concerns; and

WHEREAS, that the location of the AIM pipeline within close proximity to the Indian Point Nuclear facility and the dry cask spent rod storage facility, intersecting with two (2) high voltage power lines and in close proximity to a significant seismic zone, poses a risk of catastrophic damage with profound long term impacts on the region; and

WHEREAS, the de-vegetation and excavation within the existing right of ways which traverse through the Town's residential communities would create social, economic and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new part of the pipeline would traverse a parcel of property in the Hamlet of Verplanck within the Town of Cortlandt coming within feet of the oldest church in the Hudson Valley and disturb a beach area; and

WHEREAS, said project would cause clear cutting on property abutting the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, the proposed additional route traverses through residential neighborhoods coming within feet of an elementary school and public parks; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new route comes near the Buchanan power sub-station which provides a substantial part of the electricity for New York City and any damage to said facility due to a problem in the gas line would have devastating impacts on the surrounding community and the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is concerned about potential adverse environmental impacts during construction and the subsequent operation of this pipeline, as well as continuing impacts to the health, safety and property values in adjoining neighborhoods, the impacts to Town infrastructure and the impacts to local and county emergency services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board does hereby raise its concerns with respect to the current proposed project and asks FERC to consider alternate routes and alternate construction methodologies in order to increase safety and limit the environmental impacts of this project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby request that FERC provide additional time and dates for public information and public comment on this project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board opposes any construction of maintenance facilities within the Town that would be located on environmentally sensitive land near schools, parks, houses of worship, business or residential districts, nuclear facility, transformer stations or power lines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this project be held to the highest environmental review standard allowed by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town's special counsel, Daniel Reisel, Esq. of Sive Paget and Riesel be and hereby is directed and authorized to enter these concerns into the record before FERC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the New York State DEC and all involved agencies with the request that the health, safety and planning concerns addressed herein and previously raised in the record by the Town be reviewed and considered before any further action is taken.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT
JO-ANN DYCKMAN, TOWN CLERK

Adopted August 12, 2014
At a Regular Meeting
Held at Town Hall

Certified Copy
9/23/2014 Date
Christine B. Cotten
Deputy Town Clerk