

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Agency Building 3
Albany, New York 12223-1350

Re: West Point Partners LLC - High Voltage Converter Station & Cable
Case No. 13-T-0292

Dear Secretary Burgess:

I am writing to comment on the above-referenced application for the proposed construction of two High Voltage Converter Stations, one in Verplanck, New York and the other in Athens, New York, along with the accompanying buried high voltage cables connecting them. I am gravely concerned with the adverse impact these facilities will impose on local residents, as well as the burden it will place on New York State ratepayers.

The WPP project is one of the more expensive options currently under review by your offices. The need for this specific project is questionable, and has not been proven. I urge the PSC to consider how power could be more efficiently transferred by four other pending AC transmission power projects, which use existing rights of way, as well as proposed new generation projects located closer to the point of need, without further major disruption to local communities and significant environmental damage to the Hudson River.

In Verplanck, the proposed massive 4+ story utility building is not permitted under existing codes. On this site, it will destroy acres of what is now a wooded buffer zone between the existing industrial areas in Buchanan and the residential neighborhood of Verplanck. The proposed WPP facility will emanate constant tonal noise in what has always been a quiet hamlet and will be situated very close to many single family homes, and an historic church.

I have grave concerns about the possible impact on physical and psychological health associated with constant and unceasing noise such as this converter station will produce. Further, it is not logical to believe that underground power cables and an oversized buzzing facility will have anything other than a negative effect on all local residential property values throughout the area. Our residential neighborhood is not the place to situate a gigantic electrical converter station. Where else is there such a facility so near residential neighborhoods?

Other key issues and questions: Safety and security. The effects of electromagnetic emissions are still under great debate. WPP has chosen a site adjoining a community Little League Baseball field for their converter station - how safe are our children? What hazards will our small volunteer fire departments face? What will be the financial cost to our community in perpetuity? There is a nuclear facility a mile away from WPP's proposed site, on the same road. There is a garbage incinerating plant, exhaust from multiple power plants in Rockland County, and more pollution to come if the AIM compressor station expansion is approved. How much heavy industry can one tiny community accommodate?

I urge the Public Service Commission to protect the rights, health and safety of the residents of the Hamlet of Verplanck, Town of Cortlandt, Village of Athens and New York State. Please consider the other AC options at your disposal, and do not approve the WPP proposal.

Other Comments: _____

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Docket CP14-96 – Algonquin/Spectra Gas Transmission, LLC

Dear Secretary Bose:

I respectfully request that the Commission consider the impact of the proposed new pipeline “loop” through the Hamlet of Verplanck and expanded pipeline through the Town of Cortlandt, New York, and reject this project.

Several large energy and industrial facilities presently exist in proximity to the site of the proposed Algonquin landfall in Verplanck: Indian Point Nuclear Reactors 1, 2 & 3; Continental Gypsum Plant; RESCO garbage burning facility; power facilities in Stony Point and Haverstraw, NY; and, the 1,000 MW Champlain-Hudson power cable, which FERC recently approved. Massive quantities of power, energy, and pollution are concentrated in a very small area of our community right now. How much more can one small community safely accommodate?

Algonquin’s route is unacceptably dangerous. Within a mile from the proposed route you will find several schools, churches, and thousands of private homes. An explosion of a gas line of this magnitude in our area would be catastrophic. Our volunteer fire department is not equipped to handle such a disaster. The proposed pipeline will run under high voltage power lines, numerous fault lines, and close to what is proposed by West Point Partners - a high voltage power converter station and 1,000 MW buried cable on the same property.

This project will substantially impact all who reside along the existing smaller gas line as this project cuts across Westchester County to Connecticut and beyond. There is no indicated benefit to the residents of the State of New York. Please reject the application as it has been presented.

Other comments: _____

Sincerely,
