



WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

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Legislator, 4th District
26 Lalli Drive
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Via FERC E-Filing and Regular Mail

May 20, 2016

Honorable Norman C. Bay, Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Subject: Gas Releases in Westchester County; Spectra AIM Project, CP14-96-000

Dear Chairman Bay:

I write regarding the intentional releases of natural gas that recently occurred in Westchester County, New York during construction of the Spectra AIM pipeline expansion project (CP-14-96-000).

Shortly before the gas releases occurred between April 15 and April 20, 2016, some residents received notification by mail about gas releases associated with pipeline construction (see attached sample notice). My office received numerous inquiries from concerned residents about the health impacts associated with the gas releases. As shown on the notice, no information is provided on the notice about the location, quantity, specific dates or times of the gas releases. Without specific information, a concerned individual (e.g., elderly, parents of children, others) cannot appropriately plan to avoid the gas releases. Only a telephone number is listed to inquire about the gas releases.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement approved by FERC for the Spectra AIM project does not identify or describe the intentional releases (purging) of natural gas during construction activities. *See, e.g.*, FEIS, Sec. 2.3, at 2-15 to 2-37 (Construction Procedures), Sec. 4.11.1.3, at 4-235 to 4-236 (Air Emission Impacts and Mitigation, Construction Emissions). The FEIS

gives no indication that intentional gas releases would occur during the construction process, nor does the FEIS discuss the appropriate mitigation for such events. The Certificate for the Spectra AIM Project issued by FERC on March 3, 2015 also does not contemplate such intentional releases. Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, Order Issuing Certificate and Approving Abandonment, 150 FERC ¶61,163 (Mar. 3, 2015). By Resolution No. 80-2014, which was submitted to FERC in 2014 and included in the FEIS Response to Comments, the Westchester County Board of Legislators expressed its strong support for notification of intentional gas releases.

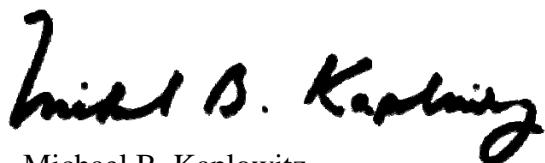
Spectra recently filed reports with FERC that reference the April gas releases. *See*, Weekly Construction Status Report No. 46 (cover letter dated Apr. 28, 2016), No. 47 (cover letter dated May 11, 2016) and No. 48 (cover letter dated May 11, 2016), available in FERC E-Library, Docket No. CP14-96-000. While providing some information about the general nature of the releases, these reports do not provide specific information on the actual releases. Moreover, this information was not available to the public until after the releases occurred.

I request that FERC reply to this letter with a description of the intentional gas releases that occurred in Westchester County in April 2016. Please provide the date, time and location of all gas releases; the quantity of gas released at such times; and a list of the government entities that were contacted about each of these releases. In addition, please describe whether and how FERC evaluated the environmental and health impacts of these intentional gas releases prior to occurrence. Going forward, I request that FERC or Spectra promptly identify any planned future gas releases for the Spectra AIM expansion project and subsequent projects (Atlantic Bridge, Access Northeast) and that FERC/Spectra contact the Westchester County Board of Legislators at least two weeks prior to any future gas releases in Westchester County.

FERC should also approve an environment and safety protocol for intentional gas releases during pipeline construction. This would be consistent with FERC's approval of other construction procedures included in Appendix B of the March 3, 2015 Certificate for the project (Environmental Conditions for Algonquin AIM Project).

Please contact me with any questions, etc. at (914) 995-2800. I look forward to your response. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Michael B. Kaplowitz
Chairman of the Board

Attachment: Spectra Notice Mailed to Residents

Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC
1490 Highland Avenue, Bldg. #4
Cheshire, CT 06410

866-873-2579 toll free
203-439-9370 fax



NOTICE

April 8, 2016

Dear Landowner;

This notice is to inform you that Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC ("AGT") is continuing its construction activities of its Algonquin Incremental Market Project, in which work is being done in accordance with all applicable governmental approvals.

In order to complete this work, we must conduct controlled releases of natural gas by opening various valves along the pipeline.

This activity is scheduled to take place Friday, April 15, 2016 through Wednesday, April 20, 2016.

As natural gas is released into the air, there will be a loud, rushing noise that may last several hours. The noise may be accompanied by an odor resulting from the odorant mercaptan, which is injected into the natural gas to make it recognizable for safety reasons.

Natural Gas is naturally odorless and is lighter than air. It will quickly rise and dissipate into the atmosphere. The odorant may linger for a few days as minute traces will separate from the natural gas that is released.

During the release, should you hear the noise or smell the odorant in natural gas, please know that there is no cause for alarm and there will be no danger whatsoever to persons or property in the area.

AGT representatives will be at these various valve sites to closely manage and monitor the controlled releases. Personnel and equipment will remain at the various valve sites until this activity is complete. Equipment will include portable air compressors, light stands and monitors that constantly measure the levels of natural gas.

Please be advised that your local police and fire departments have been or will be notified of this activity. If you have any questions concerning this procedure please call our landowner hotline (866) 873-2579.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward C. Harney".

Edward C. Harney
Right of Way Project Manager
Engineering and Construction