

Testimony of Suzannah Glidden  
People's Hearing Investigating FERC Abuses of Law and Power  
National Press Club  
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Suzannah Glidden, North Salem NY, Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion

FERC's system, including non-compliance with NEPA regulations and omission of health, environment and valid safety reviews, is entirely rigged against us and our democratic process.

FERC recklessly approved expansion of Spectra Energy's Algonquin pipeline in AIM to a massive 42" diameter, high-pressure transmission line (headed for export from Canada) next to the Indian Point nuclear power plant, based on a flawed risk analysis. When asked by thousands of individuals and NY's highest officials to halt AIM construction while NY conducts an independent risk assessment, FERC refused.

The AIM Resolution <https://sape2016.org/resolutions/> passed by towns and three county governments with science-based, detailed measures to protect our health, safety and environment, FERC dismissed.

A huge gas build-out is underway fragmenting forests with loss of trees, ruining our air with huge, hideous toxic emissions, water and soil with radioactive waste from pigging stations impacting us, wildlife, communities and property values. AIM brings huge quantities of Marcellus Shale gas high in radon and its cancer-causing daughters, Polonium 210 and Lead 210.

FERC is impermissibly segmenting from AIM Algonquin's second and third expansions, Atlantic Bridge and Access Northeast. Under NEPA, these 3 projects must be reviewed together for accurately evaluating extreme cumulative impacts on health, safety and environment.

The unjust practice FERC, industry and State Title V air permits use of subtracting rural air credits from proposed compressor emissions allowing way-above-safe-limits of contaminated air must also be abolished.

Concerned citizens jump through every FERC hoop spending our lives and money Docket commenting on segmentation, lack of Public Convenience and Necessity, unfair eminent domain, grave review omissions and insufficiencies, hiring experts, all denied or ignored in this shameful review sham of chasing down the FERC rabbit hole.

We registered to sue and Requested a Rehearing in yet another losing game after FERC approved AIM at Indian Point putting at risk 20 million people including NYC.

Instead of their expected Denial within 30 days, FERC issued a Tolling Order <https://sape2016.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/ferc-tolling-order-050115.pdf> buying unwarranted time to stall while construction continued. FERC timed their Denial many months later so the hearing for our DC Circuit Court appeal will occur after the pipeline project is completed and operational.

These ruthless, underhanded tactics seem criminal because they're premeditated and highly harmful to people and environment, and fatally so to the atmosphere. Methane emissions at drilling sites and from compressor and meter stations, condensate tanks, pipeline valves, welds and joints exacerbate global warming 86 times greater over 20 years than carbon dioxide emissions. <https://thinkprogress.org/more-bad-news-for-fracking-ipcc-warns-methane-traps-much-more-heat-than-we-thought-9c2badf392df#.e1xjs0poi>

FERC's rigged system, rife with conflicts of interest, prevents legal recourse and is empowered by corrupt states taking large industry contributions and issuing lax permits. FERC is a rubber stamp rogue agency overseen by nobody and an affront to our democracy. The US Congress must conduct a full GAO investigation of FERC.

Finally, corporate greed is not a recipe for human survival. Hydrofracking and its distribution infrastructure should be criminalized as part of the Penal Code for the ecocide and planetary destruction it causes and those facilitating it fined and thrown in jail as Class C felons!

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