



CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY, MAYOR

January 29, 2010

Honorable Robert Menendez
Senator, State of New Jersey
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

Spectra Energy is currently proposing the creation of a steel gas pipe line that will run through a densely populated area of Jersey City. I am in opposition to the line's creation in light of the potential hazards that it may pose upon completion, the negative effects of which would potentially be felt, not only by the residents of Jersey City, but also by the New York metropolitan region and possibly the world's financial markets. The proposed route is set to traverse the most densely populated sections of Jersey City that contain numerous and antiquated utilities already present within our roadways. The construction of the 30" steel pipe line will also hamper our public right-of-way in terms of the impact to our existing utilities and limit future residential and commercial development. Additionally, it will have a significant negative economic impact on private properties adjacent to the pipeline.

The line will transport up to 800 million cubic feet per day of natural gas through an area of Jersey City that is host to a number of entities classified as Tier 1 and Tier 2 Critical Infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security, including the New Jersey Turnpike, the Path Transit System, the Holland Tunnel, the Hudson Bergen Light Rail, as well as many global financial institutions. In addition, the Tropicana Plant, which houses an Anhydrous Ammonia containment vessel, is located on the proposed pipeline route.

The failure of this 30" high pressure gas pipe line would be catastrophic: all of the existing water, gas, electric and telecommunication services would be severely affected and the New Jersey Turnpike, PATH trains and the entrance to the Holland Tunnel would be rendered out of commission. The resulting devastation would severely hamper our emergency response team due to impassable routes and a lack of resources to fight this type and magnitude of failure. The destruction and disruption of major financial institutions located on our waterfront would cause a ripple effect throughout markets worldwide. The safety of thousands of residents would be put in considerable jeopardy. Finally, the line would also increase the vulnerability of Jersey City as a potential target for terror attacks.

Also, in order to decrease the likelihood of accidental breakage and increase preparedness in the event of said breakage, the City would be pressed to incur an additional financial burden on our already strained resources. Our response team would need to be equipped with new state-of-the-art apparatus specialized

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in combating this type of failure. The protection, inspection, and maintenance of the proposed gas line poses significant complications and difficulty. Our City's aged water and sewer system requires routine emergency maintenance and repairs. There have been numerous instances where contractors excavate our streets without proper mark outs, making accidental breakage of the line a feasible reality.

In the case of the Durham Woods gas pipeline explosion in Edison, NJ in 1994, the National Transportation Safety Board found that "*A contributing cause was a gouge to the gas pipeline by excavation equipment, such as a backhoe.*" In this incident the resulting pipeline rupture lead to the ignition of escaping gas, resulting in flames that rose several feet into the air. The fire destroyed several buildings in the Durham Woods Apartment Complex and caused damages in excess of \$25 million. This scenario replayed in Jersey City would create unimaginable loss of life and devastating effects to vital infrastructure. The risks posed greatly outweigh any potential benefits to Jersey City.

The proposed installation of this gas pipeline benefits two entities, Spectra Energy and Con Edison of New York. It is quite apparent the intention is to use Jersey City as a conduit to deliver their product from Staten Island to Manhattan, increasing gas supply to New York City residents, with little or no regard to the safety and security of the citizens of Jersey City. This pipeline will not provide any economic benefit to New Jersey nor Jersey City by increasing the availability of natural gas.

I urge you to join me in opposition to the construction of the Spectra Energy pipe line in light of the potential dangers that it may pose to Jersey City and our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Healy". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

Jerramiah T. Healy
Mayor of Jersey City