

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL: (201) 547-5200
FAX: (201) 547-4288

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2012

Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

City Continues Fight Against Natural Gas Pipeline ***Mayor Healy Vows to Pursue All Options Available***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy stressed today the City’s disappointment that the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** has approved a proposal authorizing the construction of a high-pressure natural gas pipeline to run through 6.5 miles of the densely populated Jersey City.

“While we are extremely disappointed, we are not entirely surprised as this entire process has lacked an independent and thorough analysis,” said Mayor Healy. “We are committed to fighting this decision and will appeal to FERC for a rehearing and if, necessary, bring the matter to the federal circuit court.”

For more than two years, Mayor Healy and the City of Jersey City have argued that this pipeline, which would be 30-inches in diameter with a possible pressure of 1,200 pounds per square inch, is the first of its magnitude in such a densely populated area as Jersey City. City officials, from engineers, to homeland security, to economic development experts, have challenged Spectra’s claims and argued that such a pipeline would be devastating for a city like Jersey City. In fact, proposals have been made to avoid Jersey City altogether by constructing a route beneath the Hudson River.

“The proposed route for this pipeline takes it by several schools, parks, ball fields, hospitals, critical transportation infrastructure, and dense housing within our city,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Based on what we have seen from pipeline accidents across the country recently and in the past, we know that incidents do happen and one in Jersey City would be catastrophic.”

The City, as an intervenor, has 30 days to file a motion with FERC for a rehearing.

“While cases that have challenged past FERC decisions on pipelines have nearly all – if not all – failed, we are not without hope,” said Mayor Healy. “The way the system is structured, and as it stands, is one that grants federal agencies way too much discretion. It puts cities like ours at a major disadvantage. Despite this, we are going to continue the fight to convince FERC or a federal circuit court that we’re right.”

(more)

(2)

Mayor Healy added that in addition to the conventional measures at hand, the City is also exploring other avenues to challenge this decision.

“Also, in addition to pursuing traditional legal measures, we are presently researching other avenues to fight Spectra’s plans and we are hopeful that they may bear fruit.”

To read more about the City’s opposition to the proposed Spectra Energy natural gas pipeline, please visit the city’s website at www.jerseycitynj.gov.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///