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May 11, 2015

To The Editor:

This Saturday's transformer fire at the Indian Point Energy Center is a reminder that we must be extremely vigilant with safety protections and oversight at this facility. Over the past few months, I have actively opposed the siting of the 42" high pressure AIM gas pipeline near the nuclear power plant.

I am well aware that there are numerous safety protections in place at Indian Point, with back-ups upon back-ups. In fact, transformer fires do happen and the plant did take appropriate actions to deal with this one.

Nevertheless, to add yet another high powered energy distribution system into the equation really seems to be tempting fate. Just because it is expedient to make this the chosen path for the pipeline does not make it wise. This particular emergency was contained, but even with a relatively minor event such as this in the scope of Indian Point, unexpected circumstances can lead to unexpected reactions.

Governor Cuomo stated about the accident at Indian Point, "Anything that happens at this plant obviously raises concerns. A transformer fire in and of itself was not dangerous, but the fear is always that one situation is going to trigger another..."

A confluence of high energy power generation and distribution at this location is literally asking for trouble. This is not the only option, and therefore should not be the chosen option for the AIM gas pipeline siting. I urge New York state to seek a stay from the federal government on the approval to site a pipeline at this locale. We must conduct an independent risk analysis using research from past gas line explosions to determine if there really is no additional threat to public safety with this new high powered pipeline at this location. The safety of our public is at stake.

Sincerely,
Sandy Galef
Assemblywoman
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