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# Mayor says he will take fight against gas pipeline to federal court



(http://connect.nj.com/user/T\_thornton/index.html) By Terrence T. McDonald/The Jersey Journal  
(http://connect.nj.com/user/T\_thornton/posts.html)  
on October 13, 2012 at 3:00 AM

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The federal agency that approved Spectra Energy's plan to construct a \$1.2 billion natural-gas pipeline through parts of Hudson County has agreed to a rehearing of Spectra's proposal next week, Jersey City officials said yesterday.

City officials have opposed the plan fiercely, saying it would jeopardize the safety of residents and discourage development. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will rehear Houston-based Spectra's petition Thursday.

"We are pleased that FERC is rehearing this petition, as we felt the initial approval lacked an independent and thorough analysis by the agency," said Mayor Jerramiah Healy. "However, we know this is an uphill battle and it is quite possible that FERC will uphold its original position."

If FERC upholds its decision to green-light the pipeline, Healy said the city will appeal the decision in federal court.

Spectra spokeswoman Marylee Hanley said it's not clear what FERC intends to discuss next week.

"The NJ-NY Expansion Project is on the agenda," Hanley said in a statement. "There is no more specific information available than that. If Mayor Healy advises he has more specific information, he should be able to provide that to you."

In May, FERC approved Spectra's proposal, which calls for replacing nearly five miles of existing pipeline, as well as adding about 15 miles of new, 30-inch pipe extending from Staten Island to Bayonne, through Jersey City and offshore Hoboken until it terminates in Manhattan.

The city appealed, saying FERC is "running a rigged game," approving pipeline routes proposed by energy companies while ignoring "viable alternatives" suggested by other parties and downplaying the concerns of pipeline opponents.

Hanley has said the pipeline would be one of the safest in North America.

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Secondly, as of right now Jersey City is sitting on pipe-lines that are 80 years of age. Don't you think its time for an upgrade. Bringing in Spectra will create 2000 direct jobs, and expand to a couple of more thousands of jobs in the aftermath. There are ways to make things safe, which requires regulation, and people. You just can't place a ban on something without a working process, NYC has been doing this for years under Con-Ed. They've had their ups and downs, but it was never banned. A city as large as Jersey City shouldn't be acting like a city as small as Bogota New Jersey.

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I just think this is the wrong move and direction. Mayor Healy doesn't have all of the facts, and is completely blinded by the fringe group out there. What Healy has in place and takes 100% credit for is the re-commission of the Energy or Environment commission-- yet there's no plan, and the commission just meets and waits for Healy's saying. The do what they are told, and have no voice or reason--plus Healy and the members appointed to the commission wasn't the real move to bring that commission back. The commission they have in place is in charge of monitoring the problems they are afraid of and directed.

The commission also has the authority to file for federal funding from places like National Science Foundation, and if the commission was set up correctly -- it would be able to hire monitors and staffing. Yet, Mayor Healy is what I call a copy -paste mayor who has no moral backing but stealing other people's proposals and Ideas, without a plan or course of action. Just like when it stole the Energy Grant from the Department of Energy which was to go to small business loan expansion-- he gave that funding to JCIA on 100 solar Generators that are placed on the streets with no monitoring or clean up. WHAT A WASTE OF \$2.9 million dollars?

When those funds could have went to private business owners, and the city of Jersey City plus the Department of Energy would have gotten a surplus not a debt. And his stand on Spectra isn't based on science -- it based on FUNDS. How much money Spectra was going to put into Healy's personal charity, and how much money Jersey City's campaign coffers were going to get. It had nothing to do with public interest. Because if it did, then why did citizen's who support Spectra called for the re-organization of the Energy Commission.

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**Last Week** ([http://nj.com/jjournal-news/index.ssf/2012/10/mayor\\_says\\_he\\_will\\_take\\_fight.html/post/2012-10-13/1350153129-624-82.html](http://nj.com/jjournal-news/index.ssf/2012/10/mayor_says_he_will_take_fight.html/post/2012-10-13/1350153129-624-82.html))

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**oldmccop** (<http://connect.nj.com/user/oldmccop/index.html>)

Maybe he should take on windmills, he knows he will lose, the pipeline will prevail its progress in the 21st century!

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