

# 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**

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

## ***Aging Natural Gas Pipeline Infrastructure Are “Ticking Time Bombs”: Homeland Security Newswire Online Publication Underscores Jersey City’s Worst Fears Concerning the Proposed Spectra Natural Gas Pipeline Project***

The online publication *Homeland Security Newswire* (HSN) recently labeled the aging infrastructure of the nation’s natural gas pipelines as a “ticking time bomb.” The article cited the aftermath of three gas pipeline explosions in San Bruno, California; and in both Philadelphia and Allentown, Pennsylvania, all of which left 14 people dead and entire neighborhoods reduced to smoking rubble.

The article comes less than two weeks after Spectra Energy made its public presentation to the Jersey City Municipal Council on Tuesday, February 23, 2011. During the presentation, officials from Spectra, which has proposed running more than 6 miles of highly-pressurized natural gas pipeline through some of Jersey City’s most densely populated and historic neighborhoods, pointed out that all the recent natural gas pipeline failures were due to old pipelines which hadn’t been well maintained.

Spectra went on to say that the pipeline for Jersey City would be new and state of the art gas pipeline technology. But when pressed by the City Council whether Spectra Energy could guarantee that it would be back in Jersey City in ten years updating and maintaining the pipeline, Spectra officials equivocated, never fully answering the question.

“I think this article in *Homeland Security Newswire* confirms what common sense has told us from the moment this project was announced,” said **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy**. “Running natural gas pipelines through densely populated areas, alongside schools, playgrounds, and Homeland Security identified Critical Tier 1 and Tier 2 infrastructure makes no sense, whether it’s now or in the future. There are not enough safeguards in the world which would guarantee the safety of this pipeline nor convince us of Spectra’s abilities to properly maintain and upgrade it.”

A long-time opponent of the proposed natural gas pipeline, on January 13, 2011, Mayor Healy formally filed for "Intervenor Status" on behalf of the City of Jersey City with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which included the request for an extension to allow the City additional time to review the more than 2,000-page application Spectra filed with FERC on December 20, 2010.

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Shortly thereafter, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced on January 19, 2011, that it had joined Jersey City, and some 300 other individuals and entities, and had filed for Intervenor Status in the Spectra Pipeline expansion project.

A Texas-based natural gas company with a plant in Linden, Spectra Energy has filed plans with FERC to install pipeline from Linden to a ConEdison Plant on 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. Over six miles of the pipeline would run through Jersey City to 18<sup>th</sup> Street, where it would head east and run under the Hudson River, in close proximity to the Holland Tunnel.

For more information on the City's opposition to the Spectra Natural Gas Pipeline, visit <http://jerseycitynj.gov/resident.aspx?id=7184>.

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

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## In Today's Issue

### Infrastructure

#### **Aging U.S. natural gas pipelines are ticking time bombs**

Fourteen people are dead, dozens injured and entire neighborhoods are gone in the wake of three massive gas pipeline explosions in San Bruno, California; Philadelphia and Allentown, Pennsylvania, over the past six months; more than 2,800 significant gas pipeline accidents have been recorded across the United States since 1990 -- a third of them causing deaths and significant injuries; there are more than 210 natural gas pipeline systems, made of cast iron, steel, and plastic with more than 21,000 miles running through heavily populated areas

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### Domestic terrorism

#### **U.S. learning from Canada to combat domestic radicalization**

The United States is partnering with Canada to learn how to better address the increasing threat from the domestic radicalization of Muslim Americans; the United States is looking to learn how Canadian law enforcement agencies have developed relationships with Muslim communities; for the past several years the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has been actively focusing on reaching out to Muslim communities and other groups that are the target of terrorist investigations; Canadian law enforcement and intelligence agencies placed domestic radicalization at the top of its priorities several years ago; domestic radicalization only recently became a national priority in the United States after a slew of failed attacks were perpetrated by American Muslims

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### Gun running

#### **ATF pushes for power to track bulk assault rifle sales**

As more guns used in the bloody Mexican drug wars are traced back to the United States, efforts to crack down on illegal gun smuggling rings in border states have struggled to gain more traction; last month, the House denied the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) an emergency request to track bulk sales of semiautomatic guns in border states; a 2009 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that an estimated 85 percent of guns seized by Mexican authorities originated from the United States; a recent investigation found that traffickers were purchasing as many as forty AK-47 rifles at a time from gun shops in the Phoenix area

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**Border security**

**Critics call for end of physical border wall program along southern border**

Given the current congressional economic climate with politicians on both sides of the aisle looking to cut programs and reduce the deficit, various groups are calling for the cancellation of the physical border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border; critics cite the wall's high costs, detrimental environmental impact, and inability to stop people from crossing the border as reasons to end the program; so far the government has spent \$2.6 billion to build 650 miles of fence and would cost \$6.5 billion over the next twenty years to maintain it; a recent YouTube video showed two women climbing the fence in less than twenty seconds; environmentalists say the walls have "severely affected rivers, streams, and wetlands"

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**A city divided by DHS**

The Rio Grande, which once marked the international boundary, now sandwiches the house that Pamela Taylor and her husband built more than fifty years ago and a tall steel barrier erected by DHS last year a quarter mile north of the Rio; the Taylor's two acres now lie on a strip of land that neither belongs to Mexico or the United States; Taylor and other residents believe that the government has not accounted for an estimated eight houses stranded on the other side of the fence

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**ASIS International 2011**

**ASIS and (ISC)2 join forces for annual security conference and more**

(ISC)2 will hold its first annual Security Congress in conjunction with ASIS International's 57th annual Seminar and Exhibits conference in Orlando, Florida; the combined events are expected to attract more than 20,000 security professionals from around the world; during the conference the two organizations will jointly offer certification seminars for various security and technology-related credentials; (ISC)2 and ASIS signed a deal to work together and leverage their mutual strengths and membership bases; beyond the conference, the two organizations will work together on developing educational programming, research, and legislative issues; the ASIS International conference will be held from 19 September 2011 to 22 September 2011

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**Immigration**

**Digital immigration system lacks protection against insider threats**

A recent DHS Inspector General report found that the department lacks an effective strategy to protect its automated immigration system from insider threats; the investigation found that the department had not taken adequate security measures to secure paperwork sparking fears that terrorists could manipulate the forms to enter the country; the report was released on the same day that the FBI arrested a Saudi Arabian citizen legally in the United States for planning an explosive chemical attack in Texas; USCIS has not yet offered its plans to deal with the program's vulnerability.

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**Epidemics**

**Malaria increasingly resistant to drugs, seaweed could be the answer**

Researchers recently found a natural substance that can destroy the malaria parasite; the substance is from a red seaweed found off the island of Fiji; the discovery of the substance comes at a much needed time as malaria has developed increasing resistance to existing drugs; the new substance comes from a chemical that the plant uses to defend against marine fungi; it is

entirely different than existing drugs and could be the key against fighting drug-resistant strains of malaria; the substance must still undergo further laboratory tests before it can be used in clinical trials

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**China syndrome**

**China plans to build alternative to Panama Canal**

China recently struck a deal with Colombia to build a railway system that would connect the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans; China hopes this link will create a viable alternative to the Panama Canal; the railway would help ease China's growing demand for raw materials, particularly coal, and act as an additional outlet for Chinese exports; Colombia is the fifth largest coal producer in the world, but most of its coal is exported through its ports on the Atlantic side; trade between China and Colombia has skyrocketed from \$10 million in 1980 to \$5 billion in 2010

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