



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 2 2003

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
FOR ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

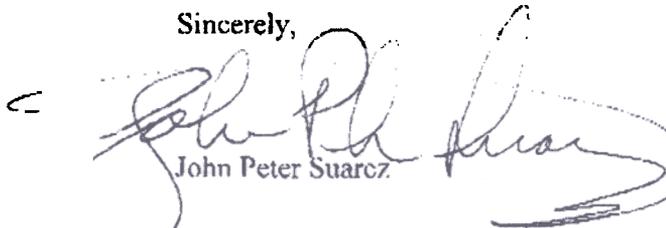
Mr. Branden Blum  
Senior Counselor  
Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services  
United States Department of Commerce  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Blum:

On September 26, 2002, the Department of Commerce requested the comments of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on issues concerning an administrative appeal before the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. The appeal asks the Secretary to override the State of New York's objection to the Millennium Pipeline Company's proposed natural gas pipeline that would extend from the Canadian border in Lake Erie and cross the Hudson River to a terminus outside of New York City.

EPA has no comments on the administrative appeal. Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Montgomery, Director, NEPA Compliance Division, at (202) 564-7157.

Sincerely,

  
John Peter Suarcz



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