



TOWN OF MARBLETOWN

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown was convened in public session at the Town Hall, 1925 Lucas Ave Cottkill, New York on December 19, 2019 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. local time. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Rich Parete, and, upon roll being called, the following were:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION#_____ OPPOSING DANSKAMMER POWER PLANT PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, Danskammer Energy, LLC (" Danskammer"), seeks a permit to build and operate a new fracked gas-fired fossil fuel power plant with a generating capacity of 525- 575 megawatts on the shores of the Hudson River in the Town of Newburgh, referred to as the Facility Repowering Project, and

WHEREAS, at least twelve (12) communities in the Hudson Valley have already expressed opposition to the proposed plant through Resolutions similar to this one. These communities include the Town of Rosendale, the City of Kingston, the Town of New Paltz, The Village of New Paltz, the Town of Esopus, the City of Newburgh, the Town of Saugerties, the City of Beacon, the City of Peekskill, the Town of Phillipstown, the Village of Cold Spring; and the Town of New Castle.

WHEREAS, Marbletown's Town Board received requests from residents, the Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission, and others to oppose the proposed plant, and is aware of well-informed opposition to the proposal from Citizens for Local Power, Scenic Hudson, Protecting Our Waters, and Food and Water Watch, as well as public comment from residents; and

WHEREAS, Marbletown supported the ban on fracking in New York State; opposed new fossil fuel infrastructure such as Pilgrim Pipelines; and has new zoning laws prohibiting fossil fuel power plants within Marbletown, and the Town has resolved to transition its own operations to 100% renewable energy, and is working on a plan to transition the entire Town; and

WHEREAS, gas-powered plants emit pollutants that harm local air quality and public health;

the Hudson Valley has ongoing air quality issues, as evidenced by Dutchess County's " D" ozone rating by the American Lung Association. Adding the emissions from the proposed Danskammer facility would **drastically worsen the air quality in the Hudson Valley and increase the public health risks for asthma and other diseases for surrounding residents;** and.

WHEREAS, the existing old power plant located at the Danskammer site is currently operating as a "peaker" facility used only during periods of peak electric demand less than 5% of the year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new power plant would produce electricity at a lower environmental impact per kilowatt hour, including the use of an air-cooled condensing system, *but it would operate year- round as a base load facility and if built would have a decades- long lifespan. As a base load facility, the proposed power plant would emit far more pollutants than the current peaker plant does;* and

WHEREAS, pollution from greenhouse gases, including carbon and methane, emitted from Danskammer would further exacerbate the climate crisis. The existing Danskammer plant, while aging and inefficient, serves to meet peak energy demand and runs only a few days a year. In contrast, the proposed plant would be a baseload facility, running nearly all the time. *The math here is simple: despite efficiency gains, total greenhouse gas emissions would increase dramatically tenfold or more* (according to Food and Water Watch).

WHEREAS, the proposed Danskammer plant presents a safety hazard because **up to 1 million gallons of diesel fuel and 30,000 gallons of aqueous ammonia would be stored on-site.** This presents a significant threat if a spill or fire were to occur; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Reliability Needs Assessment of the New York Independent Systems Operator (October 2018) found **no statewide gap in power generation or transmission capacity** in the next decade, notwithstanding the impending closing of the Indian Point nuclear power plants; and

WHEREAS, Danskammer was proposed largely in response to Federal incentives to provide capacity for the New York City region, as opposed to providing capacity to serve only the Hudson Valley; and

WHEREAS, New York State recently passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which sets targets of 70% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% carbon- free electricity by 2040; the **proposed Danskammer plant contradicts and undermines these goals;** and

WHEREAS, the existing plant was **severely flooded** during Hurricane Sandy, resulting in the plant's closure for 2 years before it went back online in 2014. The plant site remains extremely vulnerable to severe storm events, as well as sea-level rise already affecting Hudson waterfront

communities. Future sea level rise on the Hudson River, more frequent severe precipitation events, and more severe storm surge make the Danskammer site a **high-risk location for fossil fuel development**; and

WHEREAS, the massive Danskammer plant would erode the natural and aesthetic beauty of the Hudson River Valley, which is a major driver of the region's \$5.3 billion tourism economy and cherished by visitors from around the globe, as well as state residents; and

WHEREAS, redevelopment of the Danskammer plant would disproportionately affect nearby Environmental Justice Areas and impact vulnerable communities. In particular, low-income neighborhoods and people of color in Beacon, Newburgh, Fishkill, and other surrounding communities would feel the brunt of air pollution due to their proximity to the plant; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Danskammer power plant would provide only thirty (30) jobs once constructed, whereas the emerging clean energy economy will provide more and better jobs; and clean energy projects such as building solar farms or energy storage facilities would bring jobs and tax revenue without polluting our air and water and exacerbating climate change,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown calls upon the Public Service Commission to reject the Danskammer application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown opposes the permitting and construction of the new Danskammer power plant and that the Town Clerk is directed to submit this statement to the Public Service Commission and to send a copy of this resolution to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Congressman Antonio Delgado, New York State Senator George Amedore, New York State Assembly Member Kevin A. Cahill, Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan, Ulster County Legislative Chair Tracy Bartels and Ulster County Legislator Heidi Haynes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Marbletown urges Governor Cuomo and New York State to focus economic development resources into the Hudson Valley to provide prevailing wage jobs to build and operate clean renewable power generation, brownfield clean-up, energy efficiency or other appropriate projects instead of the fracked gas buildout.