

## **CITY COUNCIL**

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2019

### **RESOLUTION COMMENTING ON THE DANSKAMMER BUILDOUT PROPOSAL**

**WHEREAS**, Danskammer Energy, LLC (“Danskammer”), seeks a permit through the State’s Article 10 power plant siting process to build and operate a new gas-fired power plant with a potential 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**, the City Council has received and reviewed presentations on the proposed Facility Repowering Project from Danskammer and from Scenic Hudson, and received public comments from residents expressing concerns and opposition to the project; and

**WHEREAS**, the current power plant located at the site operates only when electric generation demand reaches a peak so that it operates about 5%-10% of the year to meet peak power demand; and

**WHEREAS**, the new power plant will operate year-round as a base load facility, and

**WHEREAS**, the new facility will use an air cooled-condensing system which will eliminate use of the Hudson River’s water for cooling; and

**WHEREAS**, the new power plant will use fracked natural gas as its primary fuel, with provisions to use ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) for up to 30 days as a back-up fuel; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State banned fracking to protect our health and protect the climate, but this facility would use fracked gas, which is especially dangerous to air and water quality of the communities outside of New York from which it is extracted, and the City of Beacon does not seek increased harms on any community, including outside of New York State; and

**WHEREAS**, fugitive methane from fracking, pipelines, compressor stations and other transport is a highly potent greenhouse gas; and

**WHEREAS**, gas-powered plants produce pollution that harms local air quality and the public’s health through release of contaminants; and

**WHEREAS**, children, the elderly and anyone with a pre-existing health condition affecting their lungs, such as asthma or emphysema, are especially vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS**, the new gas-powered plant operating at baseload capacity will produce pollution that will fuel the growing climate crisis, contrary to the interests of the City of Beacon and in contradiction to the State’s Energy Plan and Clean Energy Standard of 50% renewable energy generation to be available on the electric grid by 2030, which Governor Cuomo more recently increased to 100% by 2040; and

**WHEREAS,** Danskammer has filed a Preliminary Scoping Statement with the Siting Board, which informs the Siting Board, other public agencies, and communities about the project, including a description of the proposed facility, potential environmental and health impacts, proposed studies to evaluate those impacts, proposed mitigation measures and reasonable alternatives to the project; and

**WHEREAS,** Danskammer will conduct various studies to identify and evaluate the potential impacts of a project on the environment, public health, and other public interest factors; and

**WHEREAS,** after the public involvement program and preliminary scoping statement are filed, Danskammer must then submit a formal Article 10 application to the Siting Board, which includes the same information as the preliminary scoping statement but in greater detail; and

**WHEREAS,** the City Council recognizes that Danskammer is at the beginning of the approval process and must still hire experts, conduct various planned studies, file its Article 10 application, and conduct public hearings before obtaining final approval to construct the project.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the City Council of the City of Beacon urges Governor Cuomo and the Power Plant Siting Board convened under Article 10 of the State Public Service Law to consider the concerns stated herein when considering Danskammer's proposal to build and operate a larger, new facility.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City Clerk of the City of Beacon is directed to submit this statement to the Public Service Commission and to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo.