

Dear City Councilors and Mayor Casale,

We are writing in opposition to the construction, renovation or the alteration for future operation of the Danskammer Power plant. The reasons you state in the resolution are many, with very serious consequences for both local and global citizens. We urge you to vote in opposition to this project and we would like this letter to be a part of the public record on the matter.

We realize that one major concern for Newburgh is the economic impact on the Newburgh/Valley Central School District's tax revenues, but alternate uses of this site can support those needs in time and in the interim, the State must see to it that economic development opportunities for clean industry or business should be encouraged and the school districts given extra support during this interim period. The children in our area schools should not have to trade off their futures and their health in order to obtain funding for their education.

In addition, the number of jobs at such a high-tech power plant will not only be minimal once construction is completed, but they could be replaced and increased manyfold with clean businesses, including tourism or the construction of alternative clean energy projects on this site or nearby. A fracked-gas fueled power plant that generates pollution both at its source and from its output that contributes to the destructive impacts on our global climate needn't be the only option for construction jobs in the area. Indeed, there is no shortage of construction jobs in NY State as we well know. Instead there is a serious shortage of construction workers. So, the argument about the need for these jobs is highly questionable and clearly not worth the deleterious effects on our environment for generations to come. <https://therealdeal.com/2017/06/28/shortage-of-skilled-labor-is-forcing-us-contractors-to-turn-away-work-report/>

NYC Construction | Construction Employment

Faced with shortages in skilled labor, many construction contractors across the United States are being forced to turn work down. According to a new survey cited by the Wall Street Journal, more ...
therealdeal.com

The fracking industry primarily wants the Danskammer Plant as a permanent customer for its oil and gas products. Shockingly, they have no qualms about storing diesel fuel on a flood plane exposed to the ever increasing intensity of storms and hurricanes. It's foolhardy, cynical and completely in denial of the new reality we face as a global community. Just because the oil and gas industry executives and investors dispute the evidence of science doesn't mean that we have to believe their assertions and twisted logic. This plant is not our only energy option. We must move strongly towards alternative sources and also to energy efficiency. I remember the energy crisis of the 1970's when we learned how to conserve. We are capable of many more alternatives with all the new technologies that have been developed since that time. In the face

of the NY State goals of a cleaner, greener more sustainable energy future, a majority of its citizens are on board, especially the younger ones who will inherit the disasters the older generation set into motion. The fact that Beacon is now using 100% renewable resources for its electricity is a major step in the right direction and is to be celebrated, but it would be tragic if Beacon didn't come out fully in opposition to the Danskammer Plant as other Hudson Valley communities have. New York State has made up it's mind for a cleaner future and I hope that Beacon will not be a part of the blinkered past. There should be no equivocation here. We must simply stand up as a community and say no. And we should be prepared for attempts to divide the various communities in NY, the Hudson Valley and rural Pennsylvania by industrial propaganda that pits so-called "haves" and "have-nots," left and right, or urban and rural in a cynical ploy by the oil industry and their surrogates to keep us from standing together for the greater good and our collective future.

Finally, on a personal note. I am descended from the Arctic Circle Indigenous Sami people. The Sami have been reindeer herders since pre-history and have been witnessing and experiencing the destructive effects of climate change for some time now. You can easily learn more about this issue by searching YouTube. I have ties to Sami activists who were present at the Paris Climate Summit in 2015, to those who annually attend the UN Indigenous People's summits on climate change in New York City and with Sami artist/activists who spent a month at Standing Rock in 2016 in solidarity with North American Indigenous tribes they've been working with on climate issues at the UN for years. This is a global cause. These Sami activists travel thousands of miles every year to sound the alarm of what is happening to our climate and to the natural world. I can say in no uncertain terms, that what happens on the Hudson River will affect what happens to the future of my people in the Arctic Circle of Norway, Sweden, Finland and beyond.

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/climate-change.html>

Climate Change | United Nations For Indigenous Peoples

"I am convinced that climate change, and what we do about it, will define us, our era, and ultimately the global legacy we leave for future generations. Today, the time for doubt has passed ...

www.un.org

You should also know that my "brother" Sven Henriksen, a well-known Sami playwright, actor and activist from Norway considers Beacon his home away from home and will be staying here with us as an artist-in-residence once again for several weeks in October. I will be very ashamed if the City of Beacon fails to vote in opposition to the Danskammer project.

We believe Danskammer has the potential to be a highly visible issue in the upcoming year as the good citizens of the Hudson Valley and beyond will not sit idly by while the extractive

industries once again attempt to profit by destroying our environment, our climate and our natural landscape so they can be enriched. We have alternatives. Please vote no.

Sincerely,

Paulette Myers-Rich
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