



CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ of 2019

RESOLUTION REGARDING DANSKAMMER POWER PLANT 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, 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, a number of communities in the Hudson Valley have already passed resolutions regarding the proposed plant, some supporting and others opposing, while other communities may have deferred taking a position, or have taken no position to date; and

WHEREAS, the City Council received requests from residents and others to take a position on the proposed plant, and has received materials and oral presentations from representatives of Danskammer, Scenic Hudson, Laborers’ International, and Food & Water Watch, written comments from Green Beacon Coalition and others, and public comments from residents; 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, e.g., by Dutchess County’s “D” ozone rating by the American Lung Association; and

WHEREAS, the existing power plant located at the site is an older higher-polluting facility, currently operating as a “peaker” facility that is used only during periods of peak electric demand (less than 5% of the year); when the existing plant operated as a “base load” facility, its environmental impact on the Hudson Valley was much greater than at present; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new power plant would produce electricity at a lower environmental impact per kilowatt hour, including use of an air-cooled condensing system, but is expected to 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 more pollutants than the current plant does as a peaker facility, but less pollutants than the current plant when it was a base load facility; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Reliability Needs Assessment of the New York Independent System Operator (dated 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, although this may be dependent on operating existing peaker facilities at higher percentages; and

WHEREAS, two new power plants in the Hudson Valley have recently been built, partly in response to Federal incentives to provide capacity for the New York metropolitan 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, 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040, and net zero carbon emissions economy-wide by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the proposed power if constructed is expected to employ hundreds of local workers at prevailing wages under a project labor agreement; and

WHEREAS, the property taxes and other financial payments from the proposed plant will not benefit Beacon.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Beacon based on the information currently before it, opposes the construction of a new power plant on the Hudson River in the Mid-Hudson Valley; noting that the Council will fully and objectively take into account any new and additional information provided by way of the full formal Article 10 application process; and further noting that for a positive recommendation, such additional information would have to demonstrate the statewide necessity of such additional power generation capacity, as well as the statewide inability to provide any alternative timely sources with lesser impacts on air quality and economic harm in less populated areas.

BE IT FURTHER 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 take into account the concerns and position stated herein when considering Danskammer's proposal to build and operate a new facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Beacon urges Governor Cuomo and New York State to focus additional economic development resources into the Hudson Valley to provide prevailing wage jobs for the construction and operation of clean power generation, brownfield clean-up, or other appropriate economic development projects in the Hudson Valley; and

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.

Resolution No. ____ of 2019			Date: <u>August 5, 2019</u>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendments			<input type="checkbox"/> 2/3 Required.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Not on roll call.			<input type="checkbox"/> On roll call			<input type="checkbox"/> 3/4 Required	
Motion	Second	Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Reason	Absent
		Terry Nelson					
		Jodi McCredo					
		George Mansfield					
		Lee Kyriacou					
		John Rembert					
		Amber Grant					
		Mayor Randy J. Casale					
		Motion Carried					