



# Environment & Health

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## Meeting Agenda

*Committee Chair: Ruth Walter*

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Monday, February 8, 2021

12:00 PM

Committee Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting joint with Committee on Planning, Economic Development & Energy.

### MINUTES APPROVAL

#### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guests:

Santosh Nandabalan, Food and Water Watch  
Hannah Adler, Sunrise Westchester

2021-149

**RESO - OPPOSING FRACKING-RELATED DEVELOPMENT AT THE FORMER DANSKAMMER ENERGY SITE**

A RESOLUTION opposing the proposed Danskammer project, based upon information received about the project, concerns that surrounding towns and areas will be harmed by the project, and the overall economic benefits to Westchester County and adjacent counties of pursuing battery storage and other alternatives for the proposed plant.

#### II. OTHER BUSINESS

#### III. RECEIVE & FILE

#### ADJOURNMENT

**RESOLUTION NO. - 2021**

**OPPOSING FRACKING-RELATED DEVELOPMENT AT THE FORMER  
DANSKAMMER ENERGY SITE**

**WHEREAS**, Danskammer Energy, LLC, seeks a permit through the State of New York's Article 10 of the Public Service Law Power Plant Siting Process to build and operate a new power facility that is expected to generate roughly 550 megawatts of power via fracked gas; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed construction site of the new Danskammer facility flooded badly during Superstorm Sandy, and new operations would require the storage of aqueous ammonia and diesel in a highly flood prone area, threatening toxic exposures of the Hudson River and its organic life, including plants, fish, and water birds and animals; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed new facility will operate continuously, bringing at least a 10-fold increase in emissions of air pollutants such as nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds and a dramatic increase in local air pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hudson Valley contains some of the most polluted air in all of New York State if not the country, with Orange County receiving a C grade; Putnam, Dutchess, and Rockland Counties receiving D grades; and Westchester, an F grade, due to high ozone days summarized in the 2017 American Lung Association report; and

**WHEREAS**, air pollution in the Hudson Valley region contributes to increased instances of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), lung cancer, and asthma in children and adults and worsens the health of many additional individuals already suffering due to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, higher consumption of methane for producing power further binds New York State and our country to a climate degrading source of energy production for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New York recently passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (hereafter known as "CLCPA") which, in summary, established programs, obligations and targets to meet zero emissions by 2050, 70% renewable by 2030 and the electrical sector to be carbon free by 2040; and

**WHEREAS**, the CLCPA codifies Governor Andrew Cuomo's commitments to install 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035; 6,000 megawatts of distributed solar by 2025; and 3,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030, providing greater climate and financial benefit, as well as the prospect of more and better green jobs in the renewable energy sector; and

**WHEREAS**, Westchester County supports the initiatives proposed in the CLCPA and will take

an active role in supporting renewable energy projects in Westchester County; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 10<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 all 17 Westchester County Legislators signed onto letters in opposition to the Danskammer Fracked Gas Plant, addressed to Governor Andrew Cuomo and the Public Service Commission, respectively; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that We, the Westchester County Board of Legislators, hereby oppose the proposed Danskammer project, based upon information received about the project, concerns that surrounding towns and areas will be harmed by the project, and the overall economic benefits to Westchester County and adjacent counties of pursuing battery storage and other alternatives for the proposed plant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be distributed to Governor Cuomo, Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, and our New York delegation of elected officials.

Dated: 2021

COMMITTEES ON  
PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY/ ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH