

Dutchess County Legislature

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November 9, 2022

Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency
3 Neptune Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dear DCIDA,

We, the various undersigned members of the Dutchess County Legislature have, with concern, followed the proposed Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) project to install a 338-mile-high voltage direct current transmission line along the bottom of the Hudson River, or along existing road and railroad transportation corridors, to transmit electricity from Canada to New York City.

We are aware that Transmission Developers, Inc. (TDI) had submitted, then withdrew, an application for tax-exemption for the Dutchess CHPE portion which would be underneath the Hudson River. Their application requested a 30-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes request, which stands to save them \$120.3 million in Dutchess County. We formally call on you to deny any future application by TDI.

The Legislature fails to understand how this project would directly create a single job or have any economic impact in Dutchess County, being that its sole purpose is to transmit power from Canada to New York City. Dutchess and Upstate residents are continually asked to subsidize NYC's electrical needs and we will not allow it to expand. We question the prudence of granting TDI its tax reduction or exemption request.

Aside from the tax concerns, the proposal calls for installation of cables by the "jet plowing" method, which would dredge up seven feet of sediment from the Hudson River. If this plan is realized, any toxins in disturbed sediments would be released in proximity to drinking water intakes and we fear the impact this may have on public water supply. For example, the proposed route is within only feet of the City and Town of Poughkeepsie's drinking water intake. Rhinebeck and Hyde Park may also be at risk. The existence of undocumented pollution hotspots in the river adds further concern and raises the question of whether impact mitigation would even be possible.

We are aware that the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council, also named the "Hudson 7" for the seven municipalities comprising the council that source drinking water from the river, sent you a letter dated July 12th outlining their concerns. We share their anxiety about how the CHPE project might adversely impact the Hudson as a drinking water source.

We question whether potential profits for electric power companies, and a project that will pose no direct benefit to our county, is so valuable as to risk drinking water viability. If this project goes awry communities in Dutchess and Ulster County could be, potentially, forced to abandon the river and change drinking water sources to avoid poisoned water. To our mind, the risk posed by this project is not worth whatever gain it might offer to third parties.

Sincerely,

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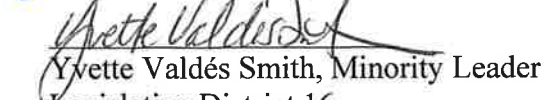





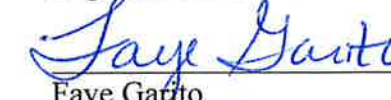





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