

ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE
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PATRICK K. RYAN
County Executive



April 19, 2021

Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary
New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

Dear Secretary Phillips:

As we emerge from the pandemic, rather than reverting back to our pre-pandemic economy, we must lean into the future economy. As Ulster County Executive, I am committed to accelerating our work to implement a Green New Deal here in Ulster County and take the real steps needed to build a greener economy for our region.

I urge the New York State Siting Board to reject Danskammer Energy LLC's application for repowering and expansion of the Danskammer Generating Facility. Danskammer is the wrong project at a pivotal time for our community. It offers an outdated dirty energy solution to a problem that requires a modern, clean energy solution in an area known for its historical roots in the environmental movement.

This project is not consistent with New York's goals under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and would undermine New York's leadership on building a clean energy future.

The proposed new gas plant, running nearly nonstop, would dramatically expand fossil fuel combustion in the Hudson Valley at a time when we need to be moving with all possible speed to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. It would also greatly increase air pollution within communities already struggling with the burdens of historic environmental contamination. Danskammer's speculations about potentially being able to burn hydrogen in the facility at some point in the future do not in any way diminish these concerns.

Ulster County is committed to leaning into the new green economy. We are transitioning our county operations to 100% renewable energy by 2030, turning brownfields into solar fields, and training a new generation of workers in the expanding clean technology industry. We need to be going all-in on clean energy, battery storage, and energy efficiency and creating sustainable, family-supporting jobs within these industries. Scenic Hudson has offered a thoughtful alternative for the Danskammer site, a major battery facility more consistent with current market conditions, regional environmental justice priorities, and New York's clean energy future.

We urge the Siting Board to ensure that *all* energy infrastructure investments are consistent with that future and to reject the current application.

Sincerely,

Patrick K. Ryan
Ulster County Executive