



ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dave Haldeman, Chair
PO Box 1800
Kingston, NY 12402
Phone: 845-338-7287

May 2, 2018

The Honorable James E. Quigley III, Supervisor
Town of Ulster
1 Town Hall Drive
Lake Katrine, NY 12449

Glidepath
Dan Foley
Chris McKissack
Peter Rood
18 South Michigan Avenue, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Sirs,

The mission of the Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC) is to advise the Ulster County government and the local governments of Ulster County on present and proposed methods of using, protecting, and conserving the environment for the benefit of the people. We are composed of representatives of Environmental Conservation Commissions (ECCs) and Conservation Advisory Councils (CACs) across Ulster County. ***We are writing today to share our concern regarding environmental issues associated with the proposed Lincoln Park Grid Support Center, a Glidepath project, which is being considered for the Town of Ulster at Miron Lane and Frank Sottile Boulevard.*** We are deeply concerned about potential harm to air quality, water quality and quality of life from this gas-fired power plant and electric grid support center.

The Ulster County EMC is dedicated to ways in which we can combat climate change and are therefore concerned that this project would accelerate fossil fuel infrastructure when renewable energy infrastructure represents the envisioned future of both the state and the county. New York State's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) commitment has the goal of building a clean, more resilient, and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers. In addition, New York State was the first in our nation to ban hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. The fact that the Lincoln Park Grid Support Center would capitalize on the abundant fracked gas from other states is in disturbing contradiction to New York State's recognition of the serious human health and environmental impacts of fracking. Ulster County is proud of its efforts to promote clean air and as such is a leader in promoting clean energy and environmental awareness. The Lincoln Park Grid Support Center is a fossil fuel project which seems contrary to the direction that the State is hoping to go as we prepare to meet our energy future.

The specific environmental areas which need to be thoroughly studied include:

- Air emissions: the primary air emissions from this project would include carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide. This project has the potential to negatively impact not only the Town of Ulster but towns surrounding it and, indeed, all of Ulster County and beyond. This project would be able to release significant amounts of air pollution and still meet air quality standards because the air quality in Ulster County is so good and in “attainment” for regulatory purposes. We find it paradoxical that Ulster County is a preferred site for this point source air pollution project since our air quality is better than other counties in the region.
- Diesel fuel storage: as a source of backup, this project includes a 50,000-gallon diesel tank on site, with diesel pollution as a possibility. The project is sited above an aquifer and next to wetlands, with Native American relics in the area as well. Fuel storage of this magnitude on site is a potential threat to local water quality and surrounding wetlands. In the planning process, consideration for the possibility of a fire or a leak of this fuel needs to be thoroughly discussed, and if the project should go forward, a full plan of action needs to be in place to address this concern as well as the impact of any disaster on the local firefighters and emergency personnel.
- Smokestacks: the project would include 80-100 foot high smokestacks that would be a visible from many points in the area, impacting our shared aesthetics as well as being the vehicle carrying pollutants into the atmosphere.

We, the members of the Ulster County Environmental Council, would be willing to help you further evaluate any of the environmental concerns this project proposes. If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Environmental Councils or Conservation Advisory Councils are in place in many towns comprising Ulster County. It is their role to help towns evaluate environmental issues that arise in the course of a town’s development. We feel it will benefit to the Town of Ulster to consider forming such a council as they can serve as a valuable way to both review proposals within a municipality and act as a conduit for public comments and concerns. If so, please feel free to contact us for information on just how these councils have been established in these other towns. We would be glad to come before the Board and present the advantages of having such a Council operating in the Town of Ulster.

We wish you well as you work through a comprehensive review of the proposed Glidepath project and, again, offer our assistance in researching information which may be helpful to you as you look further into the possible environmental impacts of this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Dave Haldeman
Chair, Ulster County Environmental Management Council

c: Michael P. Hein, Ulster County Executive
Ken Ronk, Chairman of Ulster County Legislature
Mary Wawro, Energy & Environment Committee Chair, UC Legislature
Kelly Turturro, Regional Director, NYS DEC Region 3
John Petronella, Regional Permit Administrator, NYS DEC Region 3