

Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council

Town of Esopus, Town of Hyde Park, Town of Lloyd, City of Poughkeepsie, Town of Poughkeepsie, Town of Rhinebeck, Village of Rhinebeck

December 3, 2021

Hon. James Malcolm, Chair
Ulster County Industrial Development Agency
PO Box 4265
Kingston, NY 12402

Re: Champlain Hudson Power Express

Dear Mr. Malcolm and IDA Board Members:

I write on behalf of the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (the “Hudson 7”) regarding the Champlain Hudson Power Express (“CHPE”) project, which is before your board. The Hudson 7 has serious concerns about construction-related risks posed by the installation of electricity transmission cables near drinking water intakes in the Hudson, including the intakes serving the Towns of Esopus and Lloyd. We write to urge the IDA to deny any tax incentive for CHPE because of its negative impact on Ulster County.

The Hudson 7 is a coalition of seven municipalities that draw drinking water from the Hudson River at Poughkeepsie, Hyde Park, Rhinebeck, Esopus and Lloyd. Our five public water supplies serve 106,000 residents, three hospitals, three colleges, and major regional employers, providing safe water for human consumption, firefighting, industry, and more.

CHPE proposes to install cables by “jet plowing” through seven feet of sediment in the bottom of the Hudson River in close proximity to our drinking water intakes. For example, the proposed route is within 500 feet of Esopus’s drinking water intake. The toxins in the disturbed sediments present a risk of contaminating public drinking water supplies. The Hudson 7 has been communicating with TDI in hopes of mitigating these impacts, but it is not yet clear whether that will be possible, given the existence of undocumented hotspots of pollution in the river bottom.

The proposed project would provide no meaningful benefit to Ulster County as its sole purpose is to transmit electricity from Canada to New York City. It would, however, pose substantial risks to the Ulster County communities of Esopus and Lloyd. The towns have already been affected by being forced to address this issue, and they face the risk of contamination or

shutdown if CHPE proceeds. Given the net negative impact on Ulster County, there is no justification for tax reductions for this project.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions at Rhinebeck Village Hall, 845-876-7015 or 76 East Market Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Bassett', with a stylized 'A' and a long horizontal stroke for the 'B'.

Gary Bassett
Chairman

Cc: Rose Woodworth, CEO, Ulster County IDA
Dr. Carol Smith, Commissioner, Ulster County Department of Health
Nick Hvozda, Interim Director, Ulster County Department of the Environment