

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

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Tier 4 Renewable Energy Credits

September 20, 2021

Dear Governor Hochul:

The Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (the “Hudson 7”) has serious concerns about construction-related risks posed by the installation of electricity transmission cables in the Hudson River. We write to urge New York State to prioritize drinking water protection when choosing the recipients of Tier 4 renewable energy credits, and to award the credits to projects that would not install cables in the Hudson River in the vicinity of drinking water intakes.

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.

In particular, the Hudson 7 opposes Transmission Developers Inc. (TDI)’s Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE), which proposes to install cables by “jet plowing” through the sediments in the bottom of the river in close proximity to our drinking water intakes. The toxins in these sediments could contaminate 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. We understand the ConnectGen project by ConnectGen NY Solar LLC proposes a similar route and could pose similar impacts. That project has not yet undergone Public Service Commission

review, so there may be an opportunity to avoid or mitigate impacts.

The Hudson 7 understands the need to bring low-carbon power to New York City. We ask the State to ensure that residents' drinking water is not jeopardized in the process.

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,



Gary Bassett
Chairman
Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council

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