

To: The Honorable Paul Agresta, Administrative Law Judge and The Honorable Kathleen Burgess, Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission

Subject: Testimony presented at the Public Hearing at OCCCC on February 25, 2014 regarding Case 10-E-0501 Petition of Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) Valley, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Pursuant to Section 68 of the Public Service Law, Approval of Financing Pursuant to Section 69 and for Approval of a Lightened Regulatory Regime.

BY: Jill Lindner, local Orange County resident

Date: February 25, 2014

Many of the people here tonight have come because they were told to come by union leaders who CPV has influenced through the promise of construction jobs. A few local politicians, business, community health care and Orange County Industrial Development Agency executives, who have been persuaded by CPV representatives that it is in their interest, that there is a need for this project, that it will produce “clean” energy, benefit the local economy and their community are here also. These people have been given speaking points passed on by CPV hires and they will echo the CPV marketing talk.

I come here as a concerned resident of Orange County, a mother and grandmother, a person deeply disappointed and outraged that, given all we know, experience and see in the media about global warming, climate change and extreme weather disasters that we must discuss the prospect of another fossil fuel pollution laden project in our community, the CPV Valley Energy Center.

I am not able to speak to all of the considerations before the Public Service Commission as regards the various laws, regulations and issues that bear upon their decision regarding Competitive Power Ventures’ petition. I speak from my heart and common sense.

What I want to say to the Commission is that, based on my knowledge, what I read and hear, there is no actual need for CPV’s project. Where is there a “need” that is currently unmet? Not in our area, not even in New York City, so where? Sure, our power goes down during the extreme weather we have seen this winter and during major storms like Sandy, Irene, Isaac and the rest but that is to be expected and CPV will not resolve that problem. And, we do pay excessively high prices for our electricity compared to other parts of the state and country, but will the PSC or CPV assure us that our electric bills will go down if their power plant is built? I don’t think so. On the contrary, I recently read articles in the Times Herald Record by Jessica DiNapoli that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission created a new “Capacity Zone” to fund power generation projects among which, I assume CPV is likely to one. The journalist reported that this new zone would raise utility rates for Hudson Valley ratepayers and that the PSC along with local suppliers and the NY Power Authority were fighting it in court because it unfairly places the cost of building or renovating power plants on the people rather than investors. I also understand that Orange County’s Industrial Development Agency and the Town of Wawayanda have committed to a property tax abatement, sales tax exemption and

other incentives to underwrite this project. If CPV's power plant would be beneficial and the company assured of its profitability, why do they have to have government, taxpayer and ratepayer subsidies to build it? Why can't their investors risk their own money? Why put the burden of financing a project for an out-of-state corporation and the risk of its default on the "little" people like my neighbors and me? Why are my neighbors and I being made to pay to put our families at risk so CPV can make a profit?

The members of the Public Service Commission know better than many of us here that there are many less costly and more environmentally friendly energy alternatives than CPV's project. We read and see news reports about inexpensive hydropower and wind generators upstate, solar – both commercial and local net metering – and grid modernization, transmission and technological upgrades all of which offer cleaner, renewable, job creating and economically beneficial opportunities, while slowing or reversing global warming and our dependence on fossil fuel. How is it that a project like this that will dump over two million tons of green house gases, carcinogens and toxic chemicals annually into the air we breathe and jeopardize our health and welfare, our environment and our economy has been allowed to get this far?

I care about my family, my neighbors and my community. I believe in our country and I believe the time for us to transition to renewable energy is now and CPV's project is not part of the renewable energy portfolio. We all know that CPV's representatives, consultants and lawyers have maneuvered their project through the system. They have persuaded many people to endorse it and some are here tonight. I believe CPV has misled these people, politicians and the business community. I am here because I stand with the people who want to save our community, our country and our planet. I believe in and hope for a renewable energy future in which all of us stand together in the struggle to save our country and our world. I see rewarding high paying long-term green job opportunities as we transition to renewable energy. I envision a future with a strong economy built on hope, on health and preservation of the environment that sustains us all.

I stand with those who ask that the PSC deny CPV their petition for a certificate of convenience and necessity, approval to finance the construction of their power plant and approval of a lightened regulatory regime, which, although I am unclear as to what is meant by that, I feel certain it is not in the public interest.

Respectfully,

Jill Lindner